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Japan

Investors Said Wary of U.S. Treasury Bonds

OW1002132992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Japanese investors are likely to adopt a wait-and-see attitude toward the auction of U.S. Treasury securities scheduled for later this week, financial sources said Monday.

Their hesitation stems partly from the fact that Japanese investors, particularly large institutional investors like insurance companies and investment trusts, have limited cash on hand after the collapse of the "bubble" economy in Japan, the sources said. In addition, they are uncertain about the future direction of Japan's official discount rate and interest rates, as well as about recovery of the U.S. economy, they added.

An investment manager at a major life insurer said the current yield levels of U.S. Treasury securities—around the 7 percent level for 30-year bonds—are not attractive. Referring to lingering expectations of further monetary easing in the United States, he said there is an exchange risk for investors who change yen into dollars in purchasing U.S. Treasury bonds.

Financial experts also predict that Japanese investors will keep a low profile in the 36 billion dollar quarterly refunding involving three-, 10-, and 30-year securities. One expert said Japanese institutions cannot take risks ahead of the end of the business year March 31. He added that the persistently huge U.S. fiscal deficit is another negative factor restraining Japanese investors from active buying of U.S. Treasury securities. The U.S. fiscal budget has been calculated by U.S. monetary authorities to amount to 400 billion dollars for fiscal 1992 ending September 30.

Fisheries Officials Preview Conservation Pact

OW1002134592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Japan, the United States, Russia and Canada will sign a northern Pacific salmon conservation agreement in Moscow on Tuesday, Fisheries Agency officials said Monday.

The pact, the first to be concluded with Japan by other northern Pacific countries since the collapse of the former Soviet Union late last year, will place a wholesale ban on offshore salmon fishing in north Pacific international waters.

It will end about 40 years of salmon fishing in international waters by Japanese fishing vessels.

The new agreement, named the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean, will come into force 90 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification by the four partners with the Russian Government, the agency officials said.

They said the convention will probably come into force this autumn.

Both the U.S. and the former Soviet Union initially called for a total ban on salmon fishing in waters 50 nautical miles from the coastline and beyond, the officials said.

Japan, however, objected. The four eventually agreed last summer on banning salmon catching outside a 200-mile limit.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency has drawn up and carried out a plan for the phasing down of the Japanese salmon fishing fleet since fiscal 1990 when the four nations started consultations on the convention.

The Japanese salmon fleet will be phased down to about 400 vessels by the end of fiscal 1991, or about half the level of two years before, agency offcials said.

Official: Tariffication Impact Would Be Limited

OW1002152492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 (KYODO)—The impact of tariffication on the Japanese rice market would be limited if Japan lifts its ban on rice imports by adopting high tariffs as suggested at world trade negotiations, a ranking official at the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

"I think farmers feel uneasy because of frequently voiced concerns, but I believe Japan can open its rice market," said the official, on condition of anonymity.

He said the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry should take the initiative in reassuring Japanese farmers, whom he calculated would lose about 3 percent of their income if the rice market is opened.

But farmers will lose more than that in side businesses if the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks collapses, he added.

Liberalization of world trade in farm products is the most troubling of the 15 areas taken up at the Uruguay Round, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel made a comprehensive proposal in December that each participating country come up with detailed plans to reduce trade subsidies on agricultural products by March 1.

However, major participants, including the United States and the European Community as well as Japan, are all having problems with the Dunkel proposal.

Japan is particularly troubled by the idea of tariffication—the converting of all trade barriers on farm products into tariffs, which will gradually be reduced over a period of time.

Japan has demanded that rice be excluded from the tariffication scheme and that it be allowed to maintain its virtual ban on rice imports, on the grounds of securing self-sufficiency in the nation's staple food.

Japan still officially opposes tariffication.

However, the Foreign Ministry official said he understands that the Dunkel proposal suggests that Japan can impose a fairly high tariff on imported rice at the beginning, and that it should then be cut by an average of 36 percent over a period of seven years, or at least by 15 percent.

"It will be possible to achieve the minimum requirement of a 15 percent cut," he said.

Watanabe on GATT Proposals, Northern Islands

OW0902143092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Kuroiso, Tochigi Pref., Feb. 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Sunday that Japan should accept compromise proposals under the protracted Uruguay Round and open the country's rice market to imports. Watanabe suggested in a speech in his constituency of Tochigi Prefecture that Japan make a decision on the rice issue before the March 1 deadline for submitting a tariff reduction plan.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel issued on December 20 the comprehensive proposals including a tariffication concept, which would convert non-tariff trade barriers such as Japan's near-total ban on rice imports into tariffs. Some Japanese fear accepting the tariffication will eventually lead to a total liberalization of the rice market.

Watanabe said since Japan lives on free trade, it must allow some imports. He proposed the opening, under certain conditions, of at least 3 to 5 percent of Japan's domestic rice market to imports.

Regarding a territorial dispute with Russia over four islands off Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, Watanabe vowed to settle the issue while he is foreign minister. He said Japan should first ask Russia to admit Japanese sovereignty on the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets, and then negotiate the actual return. Japan has long called for the return of the four islands, which were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

He also said Japan should respect the human rights of the some 30,000 Russians living on the islands. In the event that the islands are turned over, Japan should grant permanent residential rights to those who want to stay and pay housing costs for those who want to move, Watanabe said.

Suggests Rice Issue Compromise

OW0902091292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe suggested Sunday that Japan negotiate its rice imports issue by accepting a compromise plan put forward by the head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The foreign minister made the suggestion in a speech.

Watanabe has been an outspoken proponent of liberalizing the Japanese rice market under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Vows End to Islands Dispute

OW0902101092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe called for Japan on Sunday to accept tariffs on rice imports to help bring the protracted Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion. He also vowed in a speech to put an end to the dispute with Russia over four islands off Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, while he is foreign minister.

A compromise plan put forward by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), calls for converting import restrictions such as Japan's near total ban on rice imports into tariffs. Watanabe has been an outspoken proponent of liberalizing the Japanese rice market under the Uruguay Round launched in 1986.

Talks Open on Return of Northern Territories

OW1002082492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 10 KYODO—Japan presented its case for the return of islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II as the first round of working-level talks on a Russo-Japanese peace treaty got underway Monday in Moscow.

The Japanese side submitted to Russian negotiators that Japan has a historical and legal claim to the group of four islands known in Japan as the northern territories.

The islands, all located northeast of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, are Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and the Habomai group of islets.

Japanese negotiators also indicated appreciation for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's proposal that negotiations over the islands be based on the principles of law and justice.

The two sides will be debating whether a 1956 Soviet-Japan joint declaration, which proposed the return of the Habomai islands and Shikotan, was negotiated on the basis of the principles in Yeltsin's proposal.

The Soviets rescinded the declaration, however, after Japan renewed a security agreement with the United States in 1960.

The negotiating teams are led by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze.

The talks are expected to be a spirited prelude to Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September, when the possible return of the islands is expected to be a major topic.

The dispute over the islands has prevented the signing of a treaty between the two nations and blocked any substantial Japanese aid to the countries of the former Soviet Union.

First Load of Emergency Aid Shipped to Russia

OW0902021592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0155 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Niigata, Feb. 9 KYODO—The first batch of Japanese emergency assistance to Russia, 23 tons of food and medical supplies, left Niigata port, Niigata Prefecture, Sunday morning.

The load aboard the Maritime Safety Agency's patrol ship Echigo includes 9.3 tons of condensed milk and 8.5 tons of sugar, Japanese Red Cross Society officials said.

The Echigo is scheduled to arrive in Vladivostok on Monday afternoon.

Japan agreed in January to provide Russia with goods worth 6.5 billion yen. Most of the assistance will be distributed in the Russian Far East, the officials said.

On Monday, 13 tons of food and medical supplies are scheduled to leave for Khabarovsk from Narita airport.

Foreign Ministry officials accompanying the shipment will ask the local people what kind of supplies are lacking and then will make plans for transporting more goods, they said.

Also on Monday, about one ton of medical supplies will leave for Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk from Chitose airport in Hokkaido.

The United States also will begin airlifting emergency goods to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on Monday from U.S. bases in Germany and Turkey.

To cooperate with the U.S., Japan sent 30 million yen worth of goods to Frankfurt in late January.

Russia Seeks Aid in Market Economy Training

OW1002144492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—Russia sought Japanese cooperation on Monday in training Russian personnel to work in the market economy, officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said.

The request was made by Ivanovich Lobov, visiting chief adviser to the Russian Government, at his meeting with Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe at his office in Tokyo.

The Russian-Japanese fund, which Lobov heads, plans to set up two training centers, one in Moscow and the other in Tokyo, Lobov explained to Watanabe, the officials said.

Under the plan, instructors will be invited from Tokyo to train Russian personnel at the center in Moscow, and some of the Russians thus trained will be sent to the Tokyo center for further training, Lobov was quoted as saying.

Watanabe expressed his readiness to grant the Russian request, the MITI officials said.

City History Book Describes 'Comfort Women'

OW0702130092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—A volume of an Okinawa City's history contained descriptions of Korean and Okinawan women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, the Education Ministry said Friday.

The fifth volume of the Urasoe municipal history, published in March 1984 by the city, included two documents from the Japanese Imperial Army Okinawa garrison, the ministry said.

The ministry said it received information on the descriptions from the Okinawa Prefectural Education Board.

One of the documents, written in December 1944, said military doctors carried out medical checkups of the so-called comfort women, attended by military police.

The times for using the frontline brothels and the different fees based on soldiers' ranks also were noted in the document, which have been on display at the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum for 12 years, the ministry said.

Another document, written in September 1944, said tickets were issued for using the brothels and mentioned that children should not be able to see inside the facilities. Drinking alcohol and violence were banned inside the brothels.

The city history, which was compiled from interviews with residents, also said the Okinawa garrison set up 14 brothels in Urasoe, a southern city on Okinawa island, and forced Korean and Okinawan women to serve there.

It also said most of the brothels were established by forcing residents out of their homes, and the book was illustrated with maps.

The Education Ministry has been surveying public libraries across Japan for data on the comfort women.

So far, only Okinawa Prefecture has replied that it had such materials, the ministry said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Japan may expand its investigation of forced prostitution in World War II to include Chinese and other Asian women, as well as Koreans.

The government cannot ignore historic documents showing that Chinese, Filipinas and other nationals were among the women who were dispatched to provide sexual services to Imperial Army soldiers, he said.

Kato's statement came one day after an opposition party legislator made public historic documents indicating that Chinese women and Filipinas were among the 100,000 to 200,000 women who served as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The documents included a 1942 telegram addressed to War Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo from a Japanese Imperial Army commander seeking permission to dispatch brothel managers to Borneo.

NEC Plans Fiber Optic Venture With China

OW1002090092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—NEC Corp. has signed an agreement with a Chinese industry group to establish a joint optical communications equipment company in China, company officials said Monday. The 20-year accord calls for NEC, leading Japanese trading House Sumitomo Corp., and China's state-run Yangtze industry group of optical fiber communications to set up Wuhan NEC Fiber Optic Communications Industry Co. this year. The agreement takes effect after it gains approval from both the Japanese and Chinese Governments, the officials said.

Wuhan NEC, capitalized at 1.29 billion yen, will manufacture, market, and sell optical transmission systems and digital multiplex equipment in the Chinese market, they said. It will also provide service and maintenance of equipment to Chinese users. At present, there is only one telephone available per 100 persons in China, the officials said.

NEC projects annual sales to grow from 1.5 billion yen in the initial year to 2.2 billion in five years at the company based in Guandong Science Park, Wuhan, Hubei Province, southwest of Nanjing. Yangtze will own 51 percent of the company, while NEC and Sumitomo will have equity stakes of 35 percent and 14 percent, respectively, they said.

Company Groups To Bid for SRV Oil Development

OW0802061992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0559 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 8 KYODO—Four Japanese-led company groupings will be among nine international consortia to participate in a tender on the development of oil resources off southern Vietnam, industry sources said Saturday.

The tender, to be closed February 15, involves the tapping of oil resources at the Dai Hung oil field off southern Vietnam, the sources said.

The project is estimated to cost 300 to 400 million U.S. dollars, the sources said.

Submitting bids for the project will be nine international groups, including four led by Japanese trading and oil firms, they said.

They said the successful bidder is expected to be decided on late June at the earliest, they said.

The Japanese groups will include the alliance between Mitsui and Co. and Mitsui Oil Development Co., the partnership among Nissho Iwai Corp., Japan Petroleum Exploration Corp., and Indonesia Petroleum Ltd., a group of Sumitomo Corp. and Total Compagnie Francaise des Petroles of France, and a consortium of Marubeni Corp. and Norsk-Hydro A.S. of Norway.

The five foreign groups will include the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, British Petroleum, Enterprise of Britain, the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. of Australia, and a group of South Korean enterprises.

The sources said U.S. oil firms, such as Exxon and Mobil, which are barred from the tender because of Washington's economic sanctions against Hanoi, are also considering ways for participation in the project.

They said the United States is expected to lift the sanctions after the presidential election in November.

The sources said Vietnam has appealed to Western enterprises for cooperation in tapping oil in the region after a joint Vietnamese-Soviet venture collapsed due to lack of funds after succeeding in trial drillings.

The oil field is located about 300 kilometers south of Vung Tau near Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam.

The sources said deposits in the field are estimated at 400 to 500 million barrels.

The Vietnamese Government hopes to start production in 1994 with daily output estimated at 100,000-120,000 barrels per day, which is larger than 80,000 barrels at Bach Ho, the country's only oil well in operation, the sources said.

Ozawa Discounts Asian Concern Over PKO Role

OW0802073492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Feb. 8 KYODO—A leader of Japan's ruling party said Saturday Asian countries are not concerned over the dispatch of Japanese troops to support the U.N. peacekeeping operations. Ichiro Ozawa, former secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, made the remark in a lecture here.

"Asian countries are not concerned (over the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces [SDF] overseas). What they are worried about is that Japan may break away from the Japan-U.S. alliance or the United Nations," he said. A government-proposed bill that calls for sending SDF personnel overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations is currently pending at the House of Councillors.

Ozawa said the Self-Defense Forces will join the U.N. peacekeeping force only when asked by the world body and perform their duties within the bounds of U.N. peacekeeping missions. Therefore, he said, their missions overseas would not violate the Article 9 of the Constitution banning the use of force or threat to settle international disputes.

"If these points are clarified, the countries in Asia will have nothing to worry about," he said.

Turning to the ongoing Uruguay Round trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, he suggested that Japan accept a proposal to replace farm import restrictions with tariffs in order to lead the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Ozawa indirectly criticized Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for a lack of leadership, saying the prime minister should take action at his own discretion and step down if it fails.

EC Presses Tokyo To Liberalize Auto Insurance

OW1002104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The European Community (EC) and Switzerland have called on Japan to fully privatize the automobile liability insurance business in bilateral talks under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, government officials said Monday. The request, made during discussions on financial services mandated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is aimed at ending the Japanese Government's role in the automobile insurance field, the officials said.

The Transport and Finance Ministries, however, intend to turn down the proposal, insisting that the government's involvement is needed to help relieve victims of traffic accidents and keep the cost of premiums down, they said. Anyone who purchases a car in Japan is currently required to take out liability insurance up to a maximum of 30 million yen. Nonlife insurers place 60 percent of their premium fees into a special government account. The government then pays 60 percent of auto accident insurance claims.

Although foreign insurers are allowed to provide automobile insurance, the EC asked the Japanese Government to get out of the reinsurance business at the first round of bilateral talks on financial services late last month, the officials said. At the second round starting next Monday, the EC is likely to urge Japan to make a substantial concession on the issue, they said.

Transport Ministry officials say the current system guarantees that all victims of auto mishaps receive compensation even if the guilty party cannot afford to cover all damages. The government also helps insure that claims are handled in a fair manner, they said.

The ministry officials also said the argument will be made that abandoning the field to the private sector would open the way to higher premiums by insurance firms hungry for profits.

Regarding the March 1 deadline for submitting a list of reductions in farm protection, an Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry official said the date was not formally accepted by all nations but was merely recommended by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel.

Watanabe: Current Economic State Resembles 1929

OW1002132892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The current situation in the stock market and the shortage of capital in the private sector resemble the conditions during the 1929 Great Depression, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe warned Monday.

"Major industrialized nations need to work together so as to surmount such difficulties," he said. "We should ponder why the global depression occurred. I believe major economic powers sought their own interests while not coordinating their economic policies," he added.

Watanabe made these remarks, apparently bearing in mind the summit of seven industrialized democracies in Munich in July. During the summit, Japan, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Canada are likely to reassert the need for international cooperation in monetary policy.

The foreign minister's remarks are also taken to indicate his call on the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan to take fiscal and monetary measures to shore up the slowing economy.

Tokyo Plans To Study Additional Foreign Access

OW1002143392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The Japanese Government decided Monday to study the possibility of granting foreign access to 105 domestic service markets in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, officials said. The Geneva-based Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be informed of the step later in the day, the officials said.

During the first round of GATT negotiations on services which ended late last month, Japan said it was willing to consider liberalizing markets in about 40 areas. The Japanese proposal, however, sparked criticism from the United States and the European Community (EC). The U.S. proposed that it will consider liberalization in about 90 service areas, and the EC in about 110 areas. Japanese responded by raising the proposed number to 105, the officials said.

In a related development, the EC and Switzerland have called on Japan to fully privatize the automobile liability insurance business in bilateral talks in the Uruguay Round, the government officials said. [passage omitted]

Investigators To Probe Tokyo Bribery Scandal

OW0802150692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1438 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 8 (KYODO)—Law-enforcement authorities have decided to investigate the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. scandal, in which several political leaders allegedly received bribes among 530 billion yen worth of questionable dealings by the company, investigative sources said Saturday.

The sources said the matter involves the trucking company's direct financing of 90 billion yen, its guarantees of 340 billion yen for financial institutions' loans to 84 corporate and individual borrowers, as well as its large cash donations to the politicians.

On top of these amounts, the sources said, the firm allegedly diverted 100 billion yen it borrowed from several financial institutions to some of the 84 borrowers.

Investigators seek to determine if former Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin President Hiroyasu Watanabe and former Managing Director Jun Saotome bear any criminal responsibility in the loan guarantee scheme, the sources said.

The company filed a criminal complaint last summer with the Tokyo district prosecutors' office against Watanabe and Saotome, charging them with breach of trust by financially damaging the firm through the scheme.

The investigators will look into allegations the company handed out several billion yen to senior politicians to buy their influence, the sources said.

The national police agency is investigating the flow of money from Tokyo Sagawa to several firms linked to Inagawa-kai, Japan's second-largest crime syndicate.

Meanwhile, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office will probe the flow of money to other major corporate recipients of loans from Tokyo Sagawa and financial institutions, the sources said.

Tokyo Sagawa guaranteed 340 billion yen in loans from the institutions and diverted another 100 billion yen it received from them while directly lending an additional 90 billion yen to the 84 recipients, the sources said.

Of the total, about 100 billion yen was channeled to some mob-linked businesses, they said.

Beneficiaries of the guaranteed loans or direct financing from Tokyo Sagawa include Iwama Kaihatsu Co., developer of the Iwama Country Club owned by the late Inagawa-kai Kingpin Susumu Ishii, they said.

Two other major beneficiaries, as identified by investigators, are Hokusho Sangyo Co., also with alleged ties to Inagawa-kai, and Hokuto Kaihatsu Co., a property developer headed by Saotome.

A large majority of the 84 recipients could not have obtained such huge loans without Tokyo Sagawa's guarantee, the sources said.

Of the 84, Utopia Shuzenji, a golf course developer headed by Saotome, and two other firms subsequently went bankrupt.

The sources believe that Tokyo Sagawa guaranteed the loans or extended its direct financing to these beneficiaries, although the firm was aware of some recipients' apparent inability to repay their debts.

Tokyo Sagawa is unlikely to recover at least 270 billion yen of the 530 billion yen in questionable money, the sources said.

Politicians Linked to Scandal

OW0902094292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Three politicians received donations ranging from 1 million yen to 7.5 million yen from Sagawa Kyubin, a major trucking group allegedly involved in a cash-for-favors scandal, investigative sources said Sunday. The sources identified two of the politicians as Masaaki Nakayama, former posts and telecommunications minister, and Masayuki Fujio, who previously served as labor and education minister. The third man was identified only as a conservative politician who was defeated in the last House of Representatives general election.

Politicians Deny Wrongdoing

OW0902111492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 9 KYODO—Two ruling party politicians acknowledged Sunday they received donations ranging from 1 million yen to 7.5 million yen from Sagawa Kyubin, a major trucking group allegedly involved in a cash-for-favors scandal.

An aide to Masaaki Nakayama said the former posts and telecommunications minister received 7.5 million yen from Osaka Sagawa Kyubin Co. A secretary to Masayuki Fujio, who previously served as labor and education minister, said Fujio got 1 million yen from Sagawa Kyubin's arm in Tochigi Prefecture. Both Nakayama and Fujio, of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, denied any "special relations" with the Sagawa Kyubin group.

Investigative sources said Kodo Kohata, a conservative politician who was defeated in the last House of Representatives general election, received 3 million yen from Sagawa Kyubin's Tohoku division in northern Honshu.

The investigation into the Sagawa Kyubin scandal has revealed that two other LDP politicians, Koji Kakizawa and Yuya Niwa, have also received 3 million yen and 2.7 million yen, respectively. Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., the group's largest division, has been under fire for its alleged role in giving bribes to politicians out of 530 billion yen worth of questionable transactions.

Paper Ends Investigation of Bribery Allegations

OW1002134792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN on Monday said it will suspend its in-house investigation into allegations that an employee accepted 10 million yen from Itoman Corp. to help dampen criticism of the scandal-ridden trading firm.

Tsuneyoshi Natsumeda, company's managing director, said its decision to drop the probe was made after Public Prosecutor General Eiichi Kakei refused to disclose the name of the employee it claims took the money.

Prosecutors charged in December that a NIHON KEIZAI staff member took money from Shigeru Kobayakawa, a defendant in the case who worked for the Osaka-based trading company.

Itoman is accused of vastly overpaying for art works as part of an elaborate scheme involving speculation in real estate and questionable loan deals.

NIHON KEIZAI said at the earlier press meeting on January 31 that the interviews it conducted with 200 company employees led them to believe the information concerning the paper's coverage of the scandal could have been passed on by an imposter.

The newspaper publisher said it will follow developments as they unfold during the trial and may consider legal steps to restore its tarnished reputation in court.

Coalition By-Election Victory 'Blow' to Miyazawa

OW0902124692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Nara, Feb. 9 KYODO—Former middle-of-the road legislator Yukihisa Yoshida won a crucial by-election for the House of Councillors, dealing a blow to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's ruling party already rocked by money scandals.

Early returns showed Yoshida, a former House of Representatives legislator, was headed for victory in the first national-level race since Miyazawa came to power last November. Many politicians said they consider the Sunday vote as one of the major litmus tests heralding electoral contests in coming months, including July's House of Councillors election.

Apparently riding on public anger about a series of scandals involving current and former lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Yoshida beat LDP candidate Nobuharu Enoki. Also in the three-way race was Mitsuko Imai of the Japanese Communist Party.

With 31 percent of the votes cast already counted, Yoshida had captured 77,178 votes, Enoki 57,915, and Imai 18,059. Yoshida of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) served seven terms in the powerful House of Representatives before running for the House of Councillors as a coalition candidate backed by the SDP, the Social Democratic Party, and the United Social Democratic Party.

The 65-year-old Yoshida fills the seat vacated by opposition party legislator Kazuo Shinsaka, who died late last year.

During the campaign, Yoshida accused the Miyazawa government of engaging in money politics, denouncing its alleged involvement in the Kyowa Scandal, in which Miyazawa's former top aide, Fumio Abe, has been indicted on suspicion of accepting bribes from the now defunct steel frame company.

The Kyowa scandal has stalled deliberations in the House of Representatives Budget Committee since the opposition camp has called on the government to summon witnesses in the case.

Separately, at least four LDP lawmakers have admitted accepting donations from the Sagawa Kyubin trucking group, which is allegedly involved in a cash-for-favors scandal and in controversial dealings with Japanese gangsters. Masaaki Nakayama, former posts and telecommunications minister, and Masayuki Fujimoto, former labor and education minister, have received 7.5 million yen and 1 million yen respectively, their aides acknowledged. Two other LDP politicians, Koji Kakizawa and Yuya Niwa, have admitted getting 3 million yen and 2.7 million yen each.

In yet another scandal, incumbent Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe is accused of receiving money from parents of high school students in exchange for assuring their entry into universities.

Prime Minister Miyazawa dispatched LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru and LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki to Nara to help the Enoki campaign. But Enoki, a former prefectural assemblyman, was a lightweight to political heavyweight Yoshida, who was returned to the lower house seven times since his debut on the national political scene as a DSP politician in 1967.

During his 20-year tenure as lower house legislator, Yoshida served in key party posts such as chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee. He has said that "thrifty and clean politics" is the hallmark of his political career.

May Herald No-Confidence Vote

OW0902143992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1422 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Nara, Feb. 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's ruling party expressed shock Sunday at the defeat of the party's candidate in a crucial by-election for a House of Councillors seat at the hands of a veteran opposition legislator. A victorious opposition party leader hinted that the anti-government camp may introduce a no-confidence motion in the Japanese parliament.

Yukihisa Yoshida, formerly with the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), sailed to a relatively easy victory in the race, the first national-level race since Miyazawa became premier last November.

Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), acknowledged at a news conference that the Kyowa scandal affected the outcome of the election. The scandal has implicated Fumio Abe, who has been indicted on charges of accepting bribes from Kyowa Co., a now-defunct steel frame maker.

Watanuki told reporters that the election shows that the Japanese people are demanding "an early implementation of political reform," about which Miyazawa has been less enthusiastic than his rivals within the party have.

Final returns showed that Yoshida, formerly with the middle-of- the-road DSP, collected 244,930 votes. LDP candidate Nobuharu Enoki garnered 178,002 and Mitsuko Imai of the Japanese Communist Party had 55,927.

DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said in Tokyo that a time may come for Prime Minister Miyazawa to surrender power or dissolve the powerful House of Representatives if a series of new scandals overwhelms him.

"If such a time comes, we opposition parties should introduce a no-confidence resolution," he said. Other opposition party leaders suggested that such a no-confidence motion could be introduced in the Diet in late March.

LDP and opposition party politicians said they consider the Sunday vote as one of the major litmus tests heralding electoral contests in coming months, including the House of Councillors election in July.

Yoshida served seven terms in the powerful House of Representatives before running for the House of Councillors as a coalition candidate backed by the DSP, the Social Democratic Party, and the United Social Democratic Party. The 65-year-old Yoshida fills the seat vacated by opposition party legislator Kazuo Shinsaka who died late last year.

More Pressure To Improve Economy

OW1002123692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), following Sunday's defeat in a crucial by-election for the House of Councillors seat in Nara Prefecture, may press monetary and financial authorities to take new measures to stimulate the slowing economy, government sources said Monday. However, the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan are maintaining the stance that no particular measures are necessary at present, the sources said.

The LDP set up a special study group last Tuesday to examine ways to beef up the economy, mainly by revitalizing the stock market, conducting monetary policy more flexibly, and by implementing planned public works projects earlier than scheduled.

The study group is expected to come up with suggestions to stimulate the economy within this week at the earliest and, depending on the suggestions, the Finance Ministry and the central bank may face stronger pressure from the LDP to change their current position, the sources said.

The Nara defeat has been interpreted by political watchers as a sign of no-confidence in Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his cabinet as well as in the LDP. Thus, there is more pressure within the LDP to do something about the slowing domestic economy, the sources said.

According to a high-ranking Finance Ministry official, the ministry on its own is considering ways to help raise Japanese businesses' payout ratio—the percentage of a firm's profits paid out to shareholders in the form of dividends—in order to revitalize the stock market. But currently the payout ratio is so low in Japan—less than 1 percent on average—that even if the ratio is raised, the ministry doubts the move will have much impact on the entire economy, he said.

The central bank has also been reluctant to ease the official discount rate, with bank Governor Yasushi Mieno emphasizing that the central bank should aim at ensuring a sound economy in the medium term rather than being preoccupied with near-term economic problems.

The ministry official noted the ministry will accept the LDP's suggestions if they look really effective. He added, however, that the first thing in stimulating the economy is the government's early setting of the national budget for fiscal 1992 which starts April 1.

Deliberation on the budget for the new fiscal year has been stalled in the House of Representatives Budget Committee due to debate over a bribery scandal involving Kyowa Co., a now defunct steel-frame maker.

Business Leader To Encourage Miyazawa on Reform

OW1002105592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—A business leader expressed Monday his intention to call on Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to show positive leadership in pursuing political reform. Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), told reporters he will ask Miyazawa to start tackling political reform "seriously and promptly."

Mentioning the defeat of the Liberal Democratic Party candidate in Sunday's by-election in Nara Prefecture for a House of Councillors seat, Hiraiwa said, "the scandal involving Kyowa Co. was the biggest blow."

Hiraiwa said political reform "should be carried out through a clearly visible process. Either regulation of political funds or reappointment of Diet seats, whichever is fine to start on." In respect of political fund regulation, he said it is needed to determine how to share such funds among businesses, the government, and the public.

Hiraiwa also said he intends to ask Miyazawa for earlier Diet approval of the fiscal 1992 budget to support the nation's slowing economy, saying, "It is necessary to advance the implementation of public works projects after approving the next fiscal budget." Regarding another official discount rate cut, Hiraiwa said, "The time is not yet ripe for it. It is still hard to see the effects of the latest cut at the end of last year."

Bills To Prevent Stock Scandals Considered

OW1002130292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Feb. 10 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance is considering submitting to the current ordinary Diet session a package of four bills to prevent a recurrence of stock scandals after cabinet approval on Friday, ministry officials said Monday.

The package, if enacted, would call for establishing a committee within the ministry to inspect brokerage and banking operations as part of its organizational reforms, the officials said. The committee is to be created in July, and Finance Ministry officials disclosed that the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has asked the Finance Ministry to appoint some MITI officials as members of the committee.

The package would also call for raising fines imposed on corporate violators of the revised Securities and Exchange Law and prohibiting brokerage houses from soliciting customers for buying stocks in large lots. The revision of the law was acted on during an extraordinary Diet session last October. The package would also call for liberalizing brokerage commissions on volume transactions in stocks, the officials said.

In a related development, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Monday urged leaders of the nation's securities industry to take steps aimed at reviving the dormant stock market, including a review of corporate dividend policies. [passage omitted]

Mongolia

Vice President Leaves for Asia-Pacific Region

OW0702123592 Beijing XINHUA in English 1217 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Ulanbaatar, February 7 (XINHUA)—Mongolian Vice President Radnaasumbereliyn Gonchigdorj left here today for a one-month state visit to five Asia-Pacific countries, aimed at strengthening ties.

Gonchigdorj, who is concurrently chairman of the Small Hural, told reporters his trip would emphasize a strengthening of parliamentary relations with these countries.

It marks the first state visit paid by a high-level Mongolian official this year.

Gonchigdorj will visit South Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Australia.

He will stay in China for two days before his visit to South Korea, the first leg on his Asia-Pacific tour.

Opening Day on Ulaanbaatar Stock Exchange Noted

LD0902175292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0545 GMT 8 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 8 February (TASS)—The Mongolian People's Republic's [MPR] first stock exchange has opened for business. It is in the very center of the Mongolian capital, in a former cinema converted with the help of foreign firms.

The first day's trading saw deals concluded to the value of 2.5 million tugriks, according to the national news agency MONTSAME. The face value of shares, set by the MPR Government at 100 tugriks, "jumped" by between 10 and 3,000 tugriks. In particular, brokers from Khubsugul Aymak acquired 11 shares in the "Hotel Ulaanbaatar" company at 250 tugriks each. Ten thousand shares were sold altogether that day.

The opening of the stock exchange marked the start of the large-scale privatization launched by the first multiparty Cabinet of Ministers in the country's history. In the first phase, at least 600 state enterprises are to be privatized, writes the newspaper BIRZHIYN MEDEE [Exchange News] today.

Increase in Defense Budget Reported

OW0702133592 Beijing XINHUA in English 1320 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, February 7 (XINHUA)—Mongolia's defense budget for this year has been set at 914 million tugriks (about 22.8 million U.S. dollars), a 27 percent increase over 1991.

According to local press reports, the figure was included in the 1992 state budget report made by Mongolian Financial Minister A. Bazarhuu at the fourth session of the Small Hural which ended February 1.

The minister attributed the increase mainly to price hikes in food, clothing and fuel, and not to an increase in military personnel.

North Korea

Spokesman Assails U.S. Report on Human Rights

SK1002014592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman on 9 February gave the following answers to the questions put by a Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reporter in connection with the recent U.S. interference in our internal affairs concerning the human rights issue.

The U.S. State Department, referring to the human rights situation in many countries of the world in a so-called annual human rights report on 31 January, made an unfounded criticism of our socialist system. This is an interference in the sovereignty of our Republic and an encroachment on our system.

In the said human rights report, the U.S. State Department slandered us, describing the human rights in our country as miserable and stating that our country is a terrorist state. We, however, think that it is wrong for the United States to brand any system other than their U.S.-type capitalist system as one trampling upon human rights. This shows that the criterion of the U.S.-type human rights are set to trample upon the sovereignty of other nations and to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

As everyone knows, respecting national rights of independence and development constitutes the basis of human rights. While urging us to refrain from the use of the word anti-U.S., the U.S. authorities do not show scruples in insulting us groundlessly and interfere in our internal affairs. How should we view this?

The U.S. State Department alleged that people's independent thinking is being curbed in our country. In doing so they seek an ulterior aim, we believe. This is, in essence, meant to force so-called democracy and a multiparty system upon us and thereby disorganize us from within and eventually frustrate socialism and restore capitalism also in our country.

It is a gross miscalculation if the United States thinks it can overwhelm us with the human rights issue. The United States should clearly know about our peculiar socialism and its advantages.

Our man-centered socialist system, an embodiment of the chuche idea, is the most stable system which provides the people with genuine freedom and rights and happy life, and our socialist policy is the best human rights policy.

How could the United States have the affront to instruct anyone over the issue of human rights? We cannot but ask the United States if the millions of jobless people, poverty, murder, robbery, drug addiction, and the prevalence of aids, social cancer in the country, are compatible with its oft-repeated human rights allegations.

We think that the United States should clearly see through its own human rights situation and speak before assessing and slandering the human rights situations in other countries.

We would like to advise the United States to clearly understand that no matter how hard it may try to sling mud at our republic, it cannot impair the essential superiority and indestructible vitality of our popular mass-centered socialism under which the popular masses are genuine masters of society and everything serves them.

Cheney, Powell Blamed for 'Aggravating Tension'

SK0902052092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 8 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 8 February commentary: "Provocative Outbursts Aggravating Tension"]

[Text] The United States is now engrossed in preparing for a new military adventure. This is evident in the recent testimony of U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney and Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of

Staff, before U.S. Congress, in their news statements, and in U.S. military moves. They said that they were changing U.S. military strategy to one capable of coping with localized warfare, because if U.S. forces stationed in Asia and the Pacific are reduced hastily, somebody will try to fill the vacuum of power created by the reduction, and this will inevitably lead to conflicts. They also argued against a rapid reduction of U.S. forces in Asia and the Pacific. Citing the Gulf war as a model case of localized war, they said that another potential local threat is from North Korea, babbling that this would be the most unpredictable and real of all localized wars. In addition, they repeated the strategic propaganda called the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear development.

Such utterances by the high-ranking U.S. military authorities aimed at making a war against us a fait accompli are aggravating the Korean peninsula situation extremely and driving it to the brink of war. This is a deliberate provocation by those who are displeased with the fact that a new prospect of peace has begun to open on the Korean peninsula, because of their intention to disturb and reverse the trend of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Blurring the prospect of a peaceful situation that has come after twists and turns and doing nothing but making provocative outbursts that aggravate tensions are nothing but a display of the U.S. imperialists' immutable aggressive nature and wild ambitions, never failing to enrage the people. They have kept slandering and abusing us without due cause, arguing about such things as the development of nuclear weapons or practical threat. This is nothing but abusive language uttered by those who have lost the cause for justifying their war preparations in the face of the changing situation on the Korean peninsula. Rather, it only reveals their intentions to hatch a new nuclear plot behind the curtain of the absence of nuclear weapons. This is evidenced by the U.S. commitment to providing South Korea with a nuclear umbrella.

As is evident in the United States listing us as the first of the places fraught with a potential threat of war, the U.S. imperialists are about to produce a breakthrough for putting into motion on the Korean peninsula the strategy for settling conflicts, also known as a new military strategy, while trying to back up this strategy with nuclear arms. They pay lip service to ending the cold war, but in practice they have not backed away from their cold war policy, and have just moved the major stage of the cold war to the eastern hemisphere of the earth, directing the spearhead of the antisocialist military confrontation especially against our Republic.

The United States, which claims itself as the only superpower, is trying to achieve supremacy over the world and to establish a new world order in which the United States holds sway over the world by bringing other socialist countries and other independent and progressive countries to their knees by the use of force.

It is preposterous for the U.S. military authorities to say that if their troops are reduced in Asia and the Pacific, including South Korea, it will create a vacuum of power and prod somebody to provoke conflicts.

It is none other than the United States that seeks to place all the important regions of the world under its military control and pursues, invariably, military hegemonism [kunsajok paekwon]. This is the fundamental element of the feuds in Asia and the Pacific.

The theory about a vacuum is an expression of the insatiable ambitions of the United States for aggression and it is only an excuse for unlimited military intervention.

The prospect of peace can be opened more broadly on the Korean peninsula only by having U.S. troops withdrawn from South Korea.

The United States should abandon the commotion of war threat against us and remove all the aggressive armed forces, including U.S. troops, from South Korea without delay.

6 Feb U.S., ROK Military Exercises Reported

SK0802052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged on February 6 a joint ground and air surprise striking exercise against the North when brasshats of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces flew into South Korea to have a war confab with the puppets, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the exercise were over 200 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

The U.S. imperialists let a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane and an EH-60 electronic warfare helicopter fly over the air of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in an intensive aerial and electronic espionage on the strategic interior of the northern half of Korea.

That day a tank group and a 102 mm artillery unit of the puppet army fired scores of shells at an area adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone along the MDL and armed bandits of the puppet army fired 500 rounds of bullets from a 12.7 mm large-caliber machine gun and M-16 rifles.

On the same day formations of armed helicopters of the puppet army held an exercise for aerial strike at targets in the frontline areas of our side, making low and ultra-low flights in the air above the South Korean Kangwon Province.

On the 6th, over 550 warplanes were mobilized in aerial exercises against the North in the air above South Korea.

KCNA Reports U.S. 'Aerial Strike Exercise'

SK1002052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy Commands on February 8 committed a provocative joint aerial strike exercise against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

This exercise was aimed at increasing the capacity of formations of nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and assault planes based in Japan proper and the pacific for a surprise preemptive strike at targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea in coordination with fighter-bombers and assault planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce right after an infiltration into the operational zone on the Korean peninsula.

That day, the U.S. imperialists sent a U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line for an aerial photographing and espionage on the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea. They also let fly a RV-1 army tactical reconnaissance plane for an aerial espionage on the coastal and frontline areas of the North side.

More than 600 warplanes were mobilized in various aerial war exercises against the northern half of Korea held in the sky above South Korea on February 8 alone.

Contact With South's Liaison Officer Requested

SK1002042492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Choe Pong-chun, responsible liaison officer of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, sent today a telephone message to Kim Yong-hwan, responsible liaison officer of the South side's delegation.

The telephone message reads:

I inform you of my intention to go to the House of Peace on the South side of Panmunjom at 1500 local time on 11 February, Tuesday, for the contact of the responsible liaison officers of the two sides to discuss working issues associated with the sixth round of the North-South high-level talks.

South To Attend Journalist Center Opening

SK1002104292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 10 Feb 92

["On South Korean Delegation's Participation in Opening Ceremony of Regional Centre of Asia and Oceania of IOJ"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—Hong Chong-chin, director of the regional centre of Asia and Oceania of the International Organization of Journalists [IOJ], Sunday [9 February] gave answers to the questions raised by a KCNA reporter in connection with the invitation of a delegation of the "Korean Federation of Press Unions" of South Korea to an opening ceremony of the regional centre.

The opening ceremony of the regional centre of Asia and Oceania of the IOJ will be held in Pyongyang on February 24, 1992 in accordance with the decision of the council meeting of the IOJ held in Yemen in November, 1991.

Delegates of IOJ, national journalists organizations and the association of Korean journalists and publishers in Japan and a delegation of the "Korean Federation of Press Unions" of South Korea and foreign correspondents, press attaches of foreign embassies in Pyongyang and leading officials and journalists of Korean press organs will be invited to the opening ceremony.

Recalling that at the 11th conference of the IOJ held in Harare in January 1991 the "Korean Federation of Press Unions" of South Korea became a full member of the organization, the director said: This organization manifested deep interest and support to the opening of the regional centre in Pyongyang and the South Korean delegate to the IOJ council meeting held in Yemen in november last year expressed on several occasions his intention to participate in the opening ceremony of the centre.

The IOJ secretariat hailed the contact between the journalists of the north and the South and informed that the regional centre may invite a South Korean delegation in the name of the IOJ, he pointed out.

Saying that the regional centre sent via a third country a letter inviting Kwon Yong-kil, president of the "Korean Federation of Press Unions" of South Korea, and Yi Se-yong who participated in the IOJ council meeting, he expressed deep regret over the fact that we could not but invite a South Korean delegation to the international function, not directly but through a third country.

They will come to the opening ceremony via a third country, he said, adding: This will make the South Korean delegation's trip convenient, not complicated, when precedent is taken into consideration.

If the North-South agreement is thoroughly implemented, there will be no such complications, he said, and stressed: The regional centre will make sure that the competent organs guarantee their personal safety and all conveniences so that they may come to Pyongyang without difficulty, no matter which country they come through.

Expressing the belief that the "Korean Federation of Press Unions" of South Korea will send a delegation to the opening ceremony on our invitation, the director hoped that the South Korean authorities would approach it affirmatively.

South Urged To Show Enthusiasm for Reunification

SK1002053392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 10 Feb 92

["South Korean Authorities Must Show Enthusiasm To Solve Political and Military Problems"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities do not want to fall into a ditch of history, forsaken by the whole nation, they must discard the anachronistic dream of "unification through absorption" and, though belatedly, must keep step with the grand march of the fellow countrymen toward the reunification in the 1990's and show enthusiasm to solve the political and military problems including reconciliation and nonaggression, not insisting on the "exchange first" argument, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

The paper goes on:

In madly calling for "exchange" the South Korean rulers seek a sinister aim to blow the wind of "liberalism" into the North through the channel of "exchange", dragging on time with an empty talk about "implementation of the agreement", and thereby "unify the country by absorbing us".

If the South Korean authorities affirmatively respond to our sincere efforts for peace and reunification of the country, the North-South agreement will display a great vitality in opening the door for national reunification.

Shunning the problem of easing the acute political and military confrontation, the South Korean puppets are resorting to the "exchange first" argument, prattling that "they seek a policy to actively promote South-North exchange" and will "cope with full-dress North-South exchange".

The basic content of the North-South agreement containing the problems of reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange is to ease the acute political and military confrontation between the North and the South, promote national unity on the basis of mutual confidence, realise cooperation and exchange and thus achieve a peaceful reunification of the country.

The most important question which should be primarily settled in realising national reunification at the present time is to take practical measures to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and create preconditions for a peaceful reunification—that is, to realise disarmament, ease the tension and make the Korean peninsula a denuclearized, peace zone in conformity with the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Therefore, the South Korean authorities must not resort to a stopgap of "exchange of visits and materials" but tackle down to removing the very source of mutual distrust by easing the political and military confrontation and choose to promote exchange along with a solution of this problem at least. To do so is the only just way for the North and the South to really lead exchange favourably to reunification, not to division.

If the South Korean authorities really intend to solve the question of peace and reunification by honestly implementing the North-South agreement, they must bring forward the questions of easing the tensions—that is, to get the U.S. forces, the basic obstacle to the solution of the questions of peace and reunification, withdrawn from South Korea and realise disarmament—while paying attention to the question of reconciliation and nonaggression, and they must talk about the abolition of the "National Security Law", the anti-communist fascist law, which obstructs national reconciliation and unity and the release of the imprisoned reunification champions who had visited the North.

Reunification Committee Issues Bulletins

SK0802115492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 6 (KCNA)—The Committee for the Promotion of Korean Reunification published its information bulletin nos. 1 and 2.

The issue no. 1 carries an appeal to the members of the Committee for the Promotion of Korean Reunification, a review of the activities of the Presidium of the Promotion Committee in 1991 and accounts of the second pan-national rally for peace and reunification of Korea held in Panmunjom, Seoul and Tokyo.

The issue no. 2 contains an article hailing adoption of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South", the full text of the agreement, an account of the inaugural meeting of the Uzbekistan Committee for the Promotion of Korean Reunification and an item on the activities of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation (Khabarovsk and Pyatigorsk) and Ukraine Committees for the Promotion of Korean Reunification.

Diplomatic Relations With Uzbekistan Established

SK0902000092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Uzbekistan was signed in Tashkent on 7 February.

The joint communique reads:

A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Uzbekistan:

The Governments of the DPRK and the Republic of Uzbekistan have agreed to enter into ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic missions to develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all fields based on the principles of independence, equality, mutual benefit, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Yi In-kyu, vice foreign minister, on authority of the DPRK Government

Abdurrazaqov, foreign minister, on authority of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan

7 February 1992, Tashkent.

Delegation to DPRK-Japan Talks Returns

SK0802041992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 4 Feb 92

[Text] Our country's government delegation led by Chon In-chol, vice minister of foreign affairs, which participated in the sixth round of the DPRK-Japanese intergovernmental talks to normalize diplomatic relations in China, returned home by airplane on 4 February.

The delegation was met at the airport by Kim Chae-suk, vice minister of foreign affairs, and officials of the PRC Embassy in our country.

Kim Chong-Il Work on Socialist Cause Reviewed

SK0702132892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0026 GMT 5 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 5 February editorial: "Great Revolutionary Banner Leading Socialist Cause Along Ever-Victorious Road"]

[Text] The country is now seething with the high spirits of the party members and working people. They have risen as one to greet the most significant holiday in the history of our party and fatherland with a high degree of political zeal and great labor success.

At such a significant moment, we have come upon the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classic work *Historical Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line*.

No sooner was the document published than it firmly gripped the hearts of the people and has evoked an endless passion and a storm of repercussions upon people at home and abroad.

All of our party members and working people, who have received a great document, are filled with great pride and self-respect in living and carrying out the revolution under the most solid and superior chuche-oriented socialist system. This system is under the leadership of a resolute defender of the socialist cause of our time and a mature, passionate, and tested leader [yongdoja]. They are renewing their determination to defend the socialist banner under any stormy circumstances.

The basic spirit at the heart of the *Historical Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line* is our resolve to resolutely defend and consummate the socialist, communist cause under the banner of the chuche idea no matter what kind of tribulations we may meet and no matter how much the situation may change, without yielding a step.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted in the document: Our people will never vacillate or yield even one step whatever the situation and whatever the adversities. We will implement our party's general line which embodies the chuche idea, and bring the cause of socialism and communism to shining completion.

Socialism is the most just cause, and it is an immutable law governing the development of history that mankind is moving toward socialism.

Socialism, however, has encountered a grave challenge of the imperialists and the reactionaries of history, and socialism has been frustrated in some countries.

The publication of a great document at precisely such a moment, which gives scientific answers to important questions in world politics and implants in the hearts of the people faith in the certain victory of socialism, is indeed an event of great historical significance.

The document embodies our party's firm, unwavering stand and determination to invariably defend the banner of socialism, the banner of continued revolution in the intransigent fighting spirit against imperialism, based on boundless loyalty to the socialist cause and resolute revolutionary principle.

The document is a great chuche-oriented revolutionary program that fully explains the inevitability of socialist construction and strategic and tactical principles, as well as ways to realize them based on the great chuche idea. It is also a powerful weapon that enables the people involved in the revolution to create only an invincible, ever-victorious history, without going through twists and turns on their way to socialism.

The document gives a scientific analysis of the whole history of socialism and its reality by centering on the popular masses and clearly indicates precious guidelines which should be taken as a lesson in defending and developing the socialist cause.

Based on our victorious revolution and rich experience, it fully expounds outstanding theoretical and practical questions arising in accomplishing the socialist cause.

This document, which has fully explained questions of principle associated with the destiny and prospect of socialism, ranging from the need to correctly understand the essence of socialism with the popular masses as the main factor to the need to steadily strengthen the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—and the people's government, has made it possible to further develop and enrich the theory of socialist construction in our age and immensely increase its evolutionary role.

In the course of guiding the revolution and construction, our party has published a countless number of documents concerning the implementation of the socialist cause.

Among these immortal works, the document that has just been published has given scientific answers to such questions as how the leading role copes with the fluctuating situation as seen today and how to keep giving full play to the might and superiority of socialism without interruption.

Because it has given clear-cut answers to fundamental questions associated with the destiny of mankind, the document is a monumental work that has great influence on carrying out the socialist cause in our age.

The publication of this immortal document, which has provided the people who pine for independence and are engaged in socialist construction with valuable experience, lessons, and faith in certain victory and which has opened a bright vista for the socialist cause that has encountered serious challenge is a great feat of Comrade Kim Chong-il for the time and the development of history.

The work is a revolutionary banner as it designates the road to continuous and victorious development of the popular masses' cause of independence and the socialist cause by clearly explaining the historical lesson of socialist construction.

The road to socialism is untrodden so far, which should be pioneered, and which is a stern road of the revolution that should be advanced amid fierce confrontation with and struggle against imperialism. Therefore, we must inevitably encounter difficulties and trials on the road to build socialism and can run into unexpected developments. The people can only advance when, encountering trials on the way, they judge everything from the chuche-oriented standpoint and viewpoint with faith in sure victory and learn properly from the lessons.

The work is a valuable textbook that comprehensively sums up and sets forth the historical lesson of socialist construction. The work gives a scientific, clearcut, and chuche-oriented analysis of the reasons why socialism collapsed in some countries that were building socialism. The cause of the collapse of socialism in some countries was that in not understanding the fundamental nature of socialism from the position of placing the popular masses, the main force of history, in the center, they failed to adhere to strengthening the main force in socialist construction and enhancing its role, failed to see the qualitative difference between socialism and capitalism, failed to consistently maintain the fundamental socialist principles, amd failed to strengthen the international solidarity based on independence in relations between parties of the socialist countries. Mankind should learn a lesson from this: adhere to and advance the socialist cause. The work powerfully proves this valuable truth based on the fundamental demand of the revolution and on the scientific analysis of the present situation, enabling the communists and the people engaged in the revolution to be deeply aware of the most important and fundamental issues that should be strictly abided by in socialist construction, giving them the faith in sure victory.

The historical lesson of socialist construction that our party elucidated is a guideline which should be remembered forever in the long struggle to pioneer the fate of mankind under the socialist banner.

The work is programmatic literature that powerfully proves again the justness of our party's general line based on the practical experience of our revolution and gives our people a great national pride and self-respect, clearly setting forth the most correct way to socialist construction.

Having a scientific revolutionary line based on the great guiding ideology is the fundamental requirement to complete the socialist cause to the end. Without a correct guiding ideology and line, the revolution is like a ship without a compass. Therefore, it must experience serious vicissitudes and painful processes on the way forward. Our country's socialist construction has always progressed along the ever-victorious road without the slightest tilt or deviation, with its bright future assured. This is because our people firmly adhere to and brilliantly embody the outstanding idea, the general line of socialist and communist construction put forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for the first time in history based on the chuche idea, that is, the people's government plus the three revolutions equals communism.

The work is the great program of communist construction which comprehensively analyzes and generalizes the justness and truthfulness of our party's general line of socialist and communist construction based on the chuche social and historical principles. Therein elucidated profoundly are all the theoretical and practical problems arising in building socialism with its complete features, from the problem of accelerating man-remaking work under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and remodeling people into communist-type people and vigorously conducting nature-remaking work to build a material and technological base of socialism to the problem of remodeling all social relations in conformity with the demand of socialist society to complete the system of a socialist state. Because of this, the work gives our people great pride and self-respect in adhering to the great guiding ideology and general line under the banner of the great party's leadership and is a mighty ideological and theoretical weapon that sets forth the course of socialist construction to follow.

The work is the encouraging banner that dealt a severe blow to the antisocialist maneuvers conducted by the imperialists and their followers and gave the people faith in sure victory. Socialism was born in the fierce class struggle to crush the capitalist stronghold and advances amid the serious conflict and confrontation with imperialism. For a long time, from the time of pioneering socialism until today, the imperialists and the reactionaries of history have never ceased their maneuvers against socialism. Today, the imperialists and those who want to reinstate capitalism are keeping busy criticizing and slandering socialism more than ever, raving about the fall of socialism and the victory of capitalism.

This document is an historical argument revealing the imperialists' cunning, vicious, and antisocialist schemes and the reactionary and false nature of their sophistries. The document proves clearly that the direction of history can never change, although there are twists and turns in the course of socialism's development. The document severely condemns the reactionary sophistries of the imperialists and the socialist traitors who babble as if socialist ideology were wrong and carrying out the socialist revolution were a mistake merely because socialism has been frustrated in some countries.

Indeed, the dear leader Comrade Kim chong-il's classic work *Historical Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line* is a great banner of encouragement bringing faith in the certain victory of socialism and optimism to the people who are carrying out the revolution. It is a powerful weapon of the revolution which deals severe blows to the imperialists and all reactionaries.

The document vividly reveals that the peaceful transition strategy that the imperialists have tenaciously launched and their vicious antisocialist maneuvers are being driven into ruin. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, as the staunch defender of socialist cause and as the tested and experienced [nosukhan] leader, receives absolute respect and confidence from our people and the revolutionary people of the world, because he has opened an endlessly bright future by publishing many great documents which are unprecedented not only in his influence on the advance movement of the era of independence, but also in his contributions to developing the theories of socialist, communist construction.

Our people, who highly uphold a prominent leader and live and carry out the revolution in the system of the most superior people-centered socialism, are the proudest and happiest people. The immortal classic work *Historical Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line* is a valuable result of our party's refined and experienced leadership, which leads the socialist cause under the banner of chuche ideology on an ever-victorious road without trifling prejudice and distortion. It is also a valuable result of profound and creative ideological theory.

Our party has been endlessly faithful to the fatherland, people, and cause of chuche revolution with a firm resolve to glorify our Korea everlastingly under the banner of chuche ideology—the guiding ideology of our era, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created—and with a firm resolve to uphold the cause of socialism of our style to the end.

Our party cherishes endless loyalty to the leader who first pioneered the revolutionary road and a sense of boundless devotion to the socialist cause. Without our party's wise leadership, we cannot talk about the fact that the life of our revolution has been firmly inherited nor can we think of the fact that our superior socialism built by the respected leader is being strengthened with each passing day.

In the course of victoriously leading the cause of independence in our era, our party attained immortal and brilliant achievements and extraordinary abundant experiences.

The document systemizes and generalizes our party's great achievements and experiences. The document also comprehensively compiles the ideology, theory, and refined leadership of the most outstanding leader [yongdoja] for the socialist cause of our era and demonstrates the indomitability of socialism of our own style. Thus, this document will display everlasting vitality in defending the banner of and accomplishing socialism and communism.

We are faced with an important and worthwhile task: Carry out the glorious chuche revolutionary cause by holding fast to ideas and theories elucidated by dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the document.

In the document, dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated:

Our people have firm confidence in justice and in the future of the socialist cause which we ourselves chose and pioneered with our own strength. We are filled with revolutionary determination to advance along the road of socialism to the end under the party's leadership.

Advancing continually and vigorously along the road of socialism by upholding our party's leadership as indicated by the document is the struggle to accomplish the chuche cause pioneered in the Paektu forest, and it is the struggle to responsibly fulfill our people's important mission assigned by the times and by history.

We should more deeply keep in mind the great national pride and honor of living and carrying out the revolution in a dignified country, upholding the great leader, the sagacious [kolchulhan] leader. The invincibility of the country, the nation, and the revolutionary cause rests with the greatness of the leader.

Our people are demonstrating their national honor and dignity to the world because they are carrying out the revolution, upholding the greatest leader that mankind has ever had. They are also brilliantly realizing the supreme ideal of mankind because they are blessed with the leadership of the great party which is brilliantly inheriting the leader's cause.

All party members and the working people should deeply keep in mind the great national glory and happiness which are incomparable and should be boundlessly loyal and dutiful to the party and the leader, firmly trusting in them. They should also resolutely safeguard and defend our party center [tang chungang] with the indomitable fighting spirit that our young communists displayed at the dawn of the Korean revolution.

No matter what situation may come to us and no matter what trials we may encounter we should not have the slightest degree of trepidation, but should continue to uphold the party's leadership, with the firm faith that the road designated by our party is not only a most correct road, but is also victorious without fail. Thus, we should resolutely defend all achievements, experiences, and assets that the party has registered and should glorify them for the ages.

Vigorously accelerating socialist construction under the banner of the people's government and the three revolutions is precisely the spirit reflected in the document and is an important demand to fully demonstrate the superiority of socialism of our own style.

All party members and the working people should consistently wage the struggle to more thoroughly establish chuche in all fields of the revolution and construction, cherishing in their hearts the great pride of advancing under the leadership of the great party with the general line of socialist construction.

We should more thoroughly ensure the party's unitary leadership and the state's unified guidance in all fields of the revolution and construction and should consistently adhere to the principle of giving priority to ideology. Thus, we should see to it that all of the people are firmly united as one mind around the party and the leader and that, as the powerful main force of the revolution, they more vigorously demonstrate the superiority of our socialism which is developing on the firm foundation of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense.

The document, *Historical Lessons in Building Socialism and Our Party's General Line*, is an immortal work which demonstrates the greatness of our party and is a valuable textbook which elucidates the path of socialist, communist construction.

All party members and the working people should deeply study the document and, thus, should deeply grasp the essence and quintessence of the ideology and proposition included in the document and the historic position and significance of the document. By thoroughly studying the document we should deeply master the extraordinary wisdom and tested leadership ability of our party and the great achievements that our party have compiled for history and mankind.

Our people's glory of receiving again the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work is incomparably great, and our people's firm determination to consummate the socialist cause to the end, following the party, has become firmer and more invariable.

There is no strength in the world which can block the future road of our people who are vigorously advancing along the single road of socialism, upholding the great leader. Let all of us firmly rally around the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and more vigorously fight for the final victory of the socialist cause.

Citizen Response to Kim Chong-il Talk Noted

SK0802050492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" has evoked widespread repercussions upon the Korean people.

Chong Tong-uk, president of University of International Affairs, said that our people upon receiving the work feel the pride and honor in living and working in the most superior socialist society of chuche, holding in high esteem a staunch defender and guard of the socialist cause in the present time and a veteran wise leader and renew their determination to defend the banner of socialism for ever in any storm.

Socialism of our country deeply rooted among the masses, the driving force of revolution, is vigorously advancing without vacillation in face of the imperialist moves against socialism and the revisionist wind, he noted.

The main spirit running through the work, he said, is to firmly defend the cause of socialism and communism and accomplish it under the revolutionary banner of chuche, not backing away even a step, whatever strong wind may blow, however the situation changes and whatever ordeals may come.

Kim Sang-muk, secretary of the Nampo Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, said:

Comrade Kim Chong-il comprehensively expounds in his work the questions which should be regarded as the guideline in defending and promoting the cause of socialism, the law and strategic and tactical principles of socialist construction and ways for their realisation, thus putting in the hands of the people making revolution an ideological and theoretical weapon to carry the cause of socialism to victory.

By clearly defining the principles and ways of the ideological revolution and the remoulding of man, the work serves as a revolutionary banner leading the cause of socialism along an ever-victorious road.

Choe Ki-yong, chairman of the State Commission of Education, said that the work is a militant banner fully showing the road of socialist and communist construction on the basis of the chuche idea.

He stressed the need to rear the younger generation as the chuche-type revolutionary personnel equipped with useful knowledge and practical ability by strictly applying the revolutionary principle to education and training, firmly establishing chuche in the educational work and closely combining education with revolutionary practice.

Kim Chin-pom, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, said:

The grave situation caused by the frustration of socialism in some countries in recent years gives a serious lesson that the parties in the countries building socialism should establish chuche and firmly adhere to the principle of independence in the international relationship.

Our party and people have been able to vigorously advance along the road of revolution, unswervingly defending the banner of socialism, because they have firmly established chuche in socialist construction and resolutely maintained independence in the external relations under the banner of the chuche idea, he stated.

Seminar in India Honors Kim Chong-il Birthday

SK1002050692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] New Delhi February 8 (KCNA)—A grand international seminar on the chuche idea for the independence and peace in the world opened here today on the occasion of the 50th birthday of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Participating in the seminar were delegations and delegates from different countries, international and regional organizations, political and academic figures, a delegation of the Korean Social Scientists led by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists, and a delegation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

Present there as observers were men of the political, public, academic and press circles of India, members of the chuche idea study organizations and members of the organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, more than 300 all told.

Congratulatory speeches were made there by ex-president Giani Zail Singh, the minister of civil aviation and tourism, the minister of industry, the general secretary of the Indian National Congress Party (I), a secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India and the head of the delegation of the Korean social scientists.

Noting that respected His Excellency Kim Chong-il is an outstanding leader who devotes his all not only for the Korean people but also for the people the world over, the speakers stressed in unison that it was a great honor to open the international seminar on the chuche idea on his 50th birthday.

They said it is, indeed, timely and significant to discuss the question of the independence and peace of the world, which stands out as a pressing matter for the mankind at present, on the basis of the great chuche idea.

Congratulatory messages from the chuche idea study organizations and public organizations of different countries to the seminar were introduced at the seminar.

Gifts to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, the Bangladesh Self-reliance Research Academy, the Sri Lankan Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea and the Nepal Journalists Association were handed to the head of the delegation of Korean social scientists.

T.B. Mukherjee, deputy general director of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea and president of the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea, made a report on the subject "Truth and Vitality of the Chuche Idea Is Proved More Convincingly."

The seminar continues.

KCNA Reviews 8 Feb Pyongyang Press

SK0802055492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song received letters from the participants of seminars on his new year address held in various countries and foreign newspapers gave wide publicity to his new year address.

Voices of foreign political and public figures supporting the proposal for reunifying the country through confederacy put forward by President Kim Il-song are conveyed by the daily.

Appearing in the press are a report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" was widely reported in different countries and repercussions evoked by the work upon Korean people of all strata.

The press informs the readers that election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army was widely reported in various countries.

MINJU CHOSON conveys words of followers of the chuche idea in foreign countries praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as a genius of ideology and theory.

A collection of Comrade Kim Chong-il's works was published in Zambia on the threshold of his 50th birthday and colorful functions were organised in different countries in connection with this auspicious holiday of February, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for remaining loyal to the leadership of the party, bearing deep in mind the high pride in making revolution under the guidance of the great party.

An article of the daily deals with precious exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter who made an undying contribution to the development of the Korean revolution by resolutely defending the revolutionary idea of Comrade Kim Il-song, the commander, during the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

The daily informs the readers that solidarity messages and letters came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from foreign parties.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the teachers and students of the Tongchang Senior Middle School in Panmun County, Kaesong Municipality, who have set an example in creating a garden for teaching through a proper combination of study and practice, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers of the formation of a chuche institute in Nepal.

Figuring large in the daily is an article introducing Ho Ki-kyong, a worker of the Sinuiju chemical factory, and his family that have helped a coal mine with sincerity for ten years.

Published in the press is a statement of a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry supporting the measure of the government of the Republic of Venezuela in decisively crushing the attempt of an anti-government military coup.

Given in the press are an account of the third contact between delegates of the North and the South to discuss the formation and operation of subcommittees of the inter-Korean high-level talks and a joint communique on the results of the contact.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged war exercises against the North.

An article of the daily exposes the harsh tax system in South Korea.

In a commentary, the daily denounces the provocative, bellicose outbursts of the U.S. military authorities.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with a commentary denouncing the anti-DPRK false propaganda of some Western publications, alleging that the DPRK is effecting something like "policy switchover."

Given in the press is a report that foreign organisations published statements in support of the DPRK's stand toward the nuclear inspection problem.

MINJU CHOSON says that a meeting was held to mark the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Portuguese Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea and a bulletin was published by the committee for promoting Korea's reunification.

It is reported in the press that foreign publications exposed the danger of the development of nuclear weapons by Japan, materials showing that former Japanese Prime Minister Tojo and the Army were involved in the installation of "comfort houses" (brothels) were discovered and that the Japanese magazine ASAHI JOURNAL carried testimonies exposing the crimes of the Japanese imperialists in drafting Korean women as "comfort girls for the Army".

International news of the press includes reports that the Chinese premier visited Portugal and Spain, treaty on cooperation was signed between Cuba and Iran, and Russia and the United States proposed the reduction of nuclear weapons.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "Worsening Antagonism and Contradiction in Capitalist World".

Correction To Outcome of DPRK-U.S. Talks

SK0702232892

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Outcome of High-Level Talks With U.S. Affirmed," published in the 6 February East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 7:

Page 8, column one, seventh paragraph, only sentence make read: ...put into practice. [new graf]

The two sides agreed to maintain contacts concerned for the present with Korea-U.S. relations through the channel opened between the embassies of the two countries in Beijing. [new graf]

The Korea-U.S. high-level... (adding phrase "for the present")

South Korea

First U.S. Unit To Be Withdrawn Under Plan

SK0702125892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1248 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—The 802d U.S. Engineer Battalion based at Camp Humphreys in Pyongtaek, some 70 km south of Seoul, will be disbanded on Feb. 13

and withdrawn to the United States, the U.S. Forces Korea [USFK] announced Friday.

It will be the first battalion-level unit to be pulled out of South Korea under the first-phase troop pullout plan arranged in accordance with the Nunn-Warner bill, USFK officers said.

The 38th Korean Workers Corps at Camp Humphreys will also be dissolved and its 135 members will be transferred to other U.S. military units, it was said.

North Reportedly May Have 'Hidden' Nuclear Arms

SK1002092392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0830 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] On 9 February a special article in Hong Kong's SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST analyzing the situation in nuclear weapons development by various Asian countries, including North Korea and Iraq, said that there is a great possibility that North Korea may have hidden its nuclear weapons in underground facilities and tunnels for invasion of the South.

Sides Receive Secret Nuclear Inspection Training

SK0902105692 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] It was revealed on 8 February that the government is looking for a way to invite a U.S. expert to the first inspection of Yongbyon in North Korea, because the ROK Government does not have enough experience in nuclear inspections.

On 8 February a government authority said: Closed conferences are being held between the ROK and the United States to discuss how to establish the nuclear inspection system. Since the ROK has no experience with inspection at all and suspicion about the Yongbyon facility is strong, the United States wants to see it for itself.

He continued: The United States has not proposed any concrete suggestion for this yet. Since North Korea has no such experience either, it also may need help from a third country like China. Therefore, it seems possible that North and South Korea will agree to a provision that "allows aid from a third country's expert" in the articles on organizing the inspection team.

He also said: This kind of inspection system can be possible only under the agreement between North and South Korea. If North Korea does not agree to the U.S. Joint Nuclear Control Committee's participation, we would ask the North side to accept U.S. participation in at least the first inspection to make up for the ROK's lack of experience. I think the ROK can manage the nuclear inspection by itself the second time since it will then have the ability.

In relation to this, a government source said: North and South Korea have been receiving secret training for nuclear inspections in Sweden and the United States, respectively, since last month.

The ROK has revealed that persons concerned, including Pak Yong-ok, director of the Arms Reduction Bureau of the Ministry of Defense, are participating in the training, which focuses on the actual status of North Korea's nuclear development and establishing an inspection system based on inspections between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Douglas Pearl, senior White House aide in charge of Asia, will visit the ROK on 24 February and meet Kim Chong-hwi, chief secretary to the president on foreign security, to be briefed on the sixth North-South high-level talks slated for 18 February. They will also discuss the mutual nuclear inspection system between North and South Korea.

Government To Propose Special N-S Inspection

SK0902135592 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 8 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] It was learned on 8 February that during the sixth round of North-South high-level talks slated for 19 February in Pyongyang, the government will propose to the North that a special inspection be conducted, in addition to the North-South mutual inspection which is in accordance with the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

A government official explained that this proposal, which is related to the structure and method of the "joint committee to control nuclear weapons" to be formed according to the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, will stipulate that a special inspection in addition to a general inspection can be conducted to enhance trust between the North and South.

The "general inspection" is conducted when the North and South designate the special place and time for an inspection after consulting each other. The special inspection means that one side unilaterally designates a specific area of inspection to the other side and makes it public within 24 hours, however. This is to ensure that neither side can develop nuclear weapons at a secret place or hide its nuclear weapons prior to inspection.

This official said that this kind of verification has been carried out by the United States and the Soviet Union and that if arms reduction is realized between the North and South this kind of method will be adopted; for the time being, however, only facilities related to nuclear weapons will be subject to inspection.

Reports Continue on Cooperation With DPRK

Government To Plan Summit in Mar

SK0902095092 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 9 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The government's position on North-South summit talks is to hold them on 15 March, adopt a joint declaration, and negotiate on such issues as the 25 June war issue. The government plans to convey this to the North through official and unofficial contacts and hold discussions on these matters.

On 8 February a high-ranking government official said that because the summit talks signify the beginning of an era of peaceful coexistence between the North and South, the most pressing need is to turn the current armistice into peace. Therefore, this official predicted that making the DMZ into a practical DMZ and continuation or dismantling of the U.N. Command will be discussed during the summit talks. He also stated that it is the government's position to obtain from the North side in whatever way some kind of justification regarding the 25 June war.

He stated that the government's position is to hold discussions in order to reach a principled agreement on ways to strengthen North-South economic cooperation such as concluding an investment guarantee agreement, unifying the monetary unit, and establishing an open bank. He also stated that discussions on resolving the issue of separated families must be held.

A government source said that if the summit talks take place in the North, our side wants a live relay of the talks via satellite. He stated: "If the North side disapproves, we will link the pictures that are received on the closed circuit to our broadcasts, however, as we have done in the past during North-South high-level talks."

He said the summit talks are being proposed for 15 March in order to avoid a conflict with the Supreme People's Assembly session, which is usually held in late March or early April. During this session there is a possibility that Secretary Kim Chong-il will be elected as president. The time needed to prepare for the summit talks and our political schedule are also being considered.

He said that 15 March is a Sunday but considering the importance of the summit talks it does not matter, and added: "The date of the summit talks can be adjusted after negotiating with the North side."

North Agrees to Overseas Talks

SK0802044692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] It is reported that on 7 February, the government formally proposed to North Korea the holding of regular talks between the South and North missions of such international organizations as the United Nations. North Korea, it is reported, agreed in principle to this proposal. As a result, the two sides are likely to hold regular meetings.

A high-ranking government official said: Pak Su-kil, ROK ambassador in Geneva, discussed this with Yi Chol, North Korean ambassador in Geneva, in talks held last 1 February over breakfast. I understand that the North Korean side expressed an affirmative opinion on this proposal.

The same official said: The two envoys also discussed the issue of discontinuing mutual detraction in the international arena. The North Korean side promised to stop slandering the South, in whatever form.

He continued: The other important issue the two sides discussed emphatically at this talk was North Korea's ratification of the agreement signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The two sides agreed in principle to ratify and put into effect the agreement necessary for nuclear inspection at the earliest possible date.

In a 20 January report to President No Tae-u on the Foreign Ministry's activities during 1991, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said that he will push ahead with a plan for holding regular talks between the overseas missions in venues where the South and North have opened them, including the United Nations, Geneva, and Vienna.

North To Attend UNDP Conference

SK0802083492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean economic officials will come to Seoul Feb. 26 to attend the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) conference on Tuman River Development Project.

North Korea notified South Korea in Saturday's contact that it will send about five delegates headed by Han Tae-hyok, chief of International Organization Department at the External Economy Commission, officials said.

The delegates will cross the truce village of Panmunjom in the morning of Feb. 26, they said.

The two sides agreed that they will not discuss matters unrelated to the UNDP conference and strictly adhere to the conference schedule, according to the officials.

The first Plan Management Committee (PMC) meeting, sponsored by UNDP, opens here Feb. 26 to March 2 with delegates from the two Koreas, China, Russia, Mongolia and Japan. These countries will discuss cooperation on developing the Tuman River basin.

Each of the participating nations presented separate plans on areas of development, but officials in Seoul say they support North Korean proposal.

North Korea said it hopes to work on Najin and Sunbong areas and form special economic zones there. It is expected to reveal details to their plan at this month's PMC meeting.

Envoys in Geneva Discuss Trade

SK0802084592 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 8 February that ambassadors of North and South Korea to Geneva recently held a contact and discussed the possibility of acknowledging North-South direct trade as an exception to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT].

A relevant government official stated that "Pak Su-kil, ROK Ambassador to Geneva on 1 February met with Yi Chol, North Korean Ambassador to Geneva, over lunch and discussed this issue." This official said that "joint efforts are necessary to make trade between the North and South of Korea be recognized as domestic trade."

Daewoo Joint Ventures Approved

SK1002024792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government gave the Daewoo Group permission Monday to cooperate with North Korea to build an industrial complex and to undertake joint-venture manufacturing and construction projects in third countries.

A working-level committee on inter-Korean exchange promotion that comprises officials of the economic planning, finance and trade and industry ministries approved Daewoo's application in a morning meeting, the first approval for a joint South-North Korean project.

The committee had decided to fully back Daewoo's dispatch of a feasibility study team to North Korea for the project, committee members said.

Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung visited North Korea last month at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Kim Tal-hyon. He returned with an agreement with Pyongyang to build a light industrial complex in nampo, cooperate in mineral resources development and jointly work overseas in manufacturing and construction.

Daewoo is to put up between 10 million and 20 million U.S. dollars to build the industrial complex and North Korea will provide the land and labor.

The South Korean conglomerate is expected to make a separate agreement with North Korea on an investment guarantee, shipment arrangements, sales methods and technology transfers, and the government will approve the agreement, they said.

Officials Agree on Sports Talks

SK0902002092 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] According to Chong Chol-hui, correspondent in Albertville, France, the South-North sports talks, which have been suspended up to the present, are likely to resume around the end of Feburuary.

Yi Chin-sam, sports and youth minister, who is visiting Albertville where the 16th Winter Olympics are being held, met with Kim Yu-sun, chairman of North Korea's Olympic Committee today and agreed with him to resume the suspended South-North Sports talks according to the spirit of the South-North agreement.

Minister Yi Chin-sam and Chairman Kim Yu-sun agreed to meet again after the South-North high-level talks, which will be held on 18 February, and make efforts so that the South-North sports talks can be resumed to form a single South-North team for the Barcelona Olympics.

Minister Yi Chin-sam and Chairman Kim Yu-sun also agreed to resume the suspended sports talks according to the spirit of the South-North agreement so that the South and the North can participate in all kinds of international sports games as a single team.

Supreme Court Begins Preparation for Reunification

SK0802065392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—The Supreme Court, believing that the day is closer than generally expected, has begun judicial preparations for Korean unification.

The nation's highest court has assigned another judge to the court administration team to step up the collection and analysis of pertinent North Korean and foreign laws and regulations, a source said Saturday.

The team will compare the property, family, birth registration and other civil and criminal laws of the two Koreas.

The Supreme Court believes that laws and regulations should be modified and supplemented in the event of unification, the source said.

"But we believe this work will take quite a long time as the revamping will have to keep pace with the procedural progress of unification efforts," he said.

In addition, the Supreme Court will dispatch two legal officers to the Korean legal center to prepare for the inauguration of a South-North legal research committee.

Corporation To Print Currency for Unification

SK1002053892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Taejon, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—The Korea Mint Corp. plans to issue a draft currency with three bills and seven coins this year in preparation for unification of South and North Korea.

In a report to Finance Minister Yi Yong-man, Mint President Kim Mu-yong said said the new currency would be easily passable by South and North Koreans, discernable and hard to counterfeit.

Favorable conditions surrounding the Korean peninsula, notably the rapprochement that is leading to a South-North Korean summit and the brisk economic cooperation, were the reasons for the project, he said.

Emphasis will be on featuring as many uniquely Korean things as possible on the currency to get the North's agreement, he said.

Reports Denied on DPRK Ordering Goods

SK0802025892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Feb 92 p 8

[Text] The Trade-Industry Ministry yesterday denied news reports that North Korea has ordered $1 billion worth of South Korean-made consumer products to be used as gifts for its residents on President Kim Il-song's 80th birthday on April 15.

Foreign news agencies reported Thursday [6 February] that North Korea plans to purchase Southern consumer products such as soaps, toothpaste, towels, garments, watches, bicycles and household electronics appliances to distribute them to its people on Kim's birthday.

Despite the ministry's announcement, some Southern enterprises admitted that they received orders worth millions of U.S. dollars for consumer goods from North Korea.

Sunkyong, the trading arm of the Sunkyong Group, revealed Thursday that it received orders amounting to a few million U.S. dollars from North Korea last year but rejected the deal because the North did not want to pay requested prices.

A Sunkyong spokesman said that North Korea sought to purchase consumer products in order to give them to its residents on Kim Il-song's 80th birthday.

He said that his company had a series of negotiations on exports of daily necessities worth millions of U.S. dollars to the North with a Korean-American businessman active in Seoul who is acting as a broker for North Korea in April and May last year.

The businessman was identified as Yun Se-chung.

But he said that his company abandoned the deal.

He also surmised that other Southern enterprises might have received orders worth millions of U.S. dollars for consumer products from North Korea for Kim's birthday celebrations.

He said that North Korea planned to distribute them to its people on Kim's birthday on condition that all brand labels are removed.

Business experts speculated that Japanese general trading companies intentionally leaked stories to foreign news agencies that North Korea has ordered Southern consumer products worth $1 billion in a bid to block massive scale transactions between Seoul and Pyongyang.

The experts believe that foreign news agencies cannot have access to information on deals between South and North Korea.

They also said that Japanese general trading companies operating in Seoul have been paying keen attention to the development of inter-Korean economic and trade exchanges.

They said that with the revelation of foreign news agencies' reports, Japanese businesses believe that North Korea will cancel its orders for Southern consumer products and they can sell their own products to North Korea.

New Russian Envoy to DPRK Interviewed

SK1002005392 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 8 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Yuriy Fadeyev, newly appointed Russian ambassador to North Korea, by correspondent Kim Sok-hwan on 7 February in Moscow—passages in boldface are Kim's supplementary remarks]

[Text] In an interview with CHUNGANG ILBO on 7 February in Moscow, Yuriy Fadeyev, newly appointed Russian ambassador to North Korea, who will assume his office in Pyongyang next month said: "Since conditions to hold summit talks between North and South Korea have been already sufficiently fostered, I believe that summit talks will be held in the near future. Preconditions for summit talks such as the adoption of the North-South agreement and North Korea accepting nuclear inspection, have been already sufficiently provided. When viewing the trend of improvement in relations between North and South Korea, summit talks will be held somewhere on the Korean peninsula and I do not think Moscow or Beijing will be considered."

[Kim Sok-hwan] If North-South Korean summit talks occur, who do you think will represent the North and South?

[Yuriy Fadeyev] North Korea's President Kim Il-song and South Korea's President No Tae-u will participate. I do not think Secretary Kim Chong-il will represent the North Korean side.

Fadeyev had worked in North Korea for over 12 years on three occasions since 1954. He visited Pyongyang from 22 to 26 December in 1991 while accompanying special envoy Igor Rogachev as an expert on Korean peninsula issues with the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Kim] Whom did you meet and what did you discuss?

[Fadeyev] I did not meet President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il. I met Vice Premier Yi Chong-ok and First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu. We held discussions on economic relations between Russia and North Korea and on the issue of North Korea accepting nuclear inspection.

[Kim] Based on your past experiences in North Korea, do you think North Korea has changed?

[Fadeyev] It is a fact that many changes have taken place. North Korea has developed much in the political field. It seems that politically North Korea is stable but it has experienced great difficulties in the economic field.

Fadeyev indirectly hinted that the recent mood for detente on the Korean peninsula is due to North Korea's economic difficulty. He also hinted that he received the impression that North Korea's political atmosphere was breaking away from its past ideological rigidness.

[Kim] It is known that North Korea is experiencing much difficulty since trade dealings between the two countries are settled in dollars.

[Fadeyev] We feel that we were somewhat hasty in settling trade through foreign exchange with North Korea. North Korea is suffering because of this. When I begin work as Russian ambassador to North Korea, I will make efforts to promote relations between the two countries, such as activating the original method of trade on a barter system in conducting trade with North Korea.

Ties Established With Ukraine, Belarus, Turkmeniya

SK1002080292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0739 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea established diplomatic ties Monday with Turkmeniya, Ukraine and Belarus.

The Foreign Ministry said acting Korean Ambassador to Russia Yi Won-yong signed a protocol on diplomatic normalization with Turkmeniya's representative to Moscow, Niyazklych Nurklychev.

The Ministry exchanged protocols with its counterparts in Ukraine and Belarus signed by their foreign ministers.

Seoul has opened formal ties with eight members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, and plans to establish relations with the remaining three republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan this month.

Korea now has full ties with 161 countries.

Firms To Help Transform Soviet Arms Industry

SK1002081192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0658 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korean companies will be able to take part in the task of transforming the arms industry in the Commonwealth of Independent States to manufacturers of consumer goods, YONHAP learned Monday.

Pak Won-hui, director of the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), and Boris Saltykov, Russia's advanced science education and technology policy minister, reached agreement on Korean participation in Moscow recently, according to a source at KIST.

Pak visited Russia, Ukraine and Belarus from Jan. 25 to Feb. 5 to promote technical cooperation with Commonwealth nations.

KIST and Russia's Academy of Sciences will serve as conduits for Korean participation in the project, the official said.

Saltykov told Pak the Commonwealth was working to transform its munitions industry and he expected Korean firms to take part once an overall plan was worked out, he said.

Pak also met Y.S. Osipov, director of the Academy of Sciences, who promised to help KIST open a liaison office in Moscow in April.

The Academy executes various international science exchange programs on behalf of the CIS countries, with the exception of the more independence-minded Ukraine and Belarus.

At the Academy's medical and electronics center, Pak agreed with officials that KIST and the Academy would jointly undertake a project to apply high-tech military expertise to preventive and clinical medical programs.

In addition, Zavod Arsenal Co., a leading optical company in Ukraine, promised to send one of their experts on multi-lens design to Korea and proposed the creation of a Korea-Ukraine joint venture to produce cameras.

With Belarus authorities, Pak discussed exchanging scientific information and establishing a specialized technology firm, the source said.

Trade Ministry Announces Halt of Exports to CIS

SK0802060792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0105 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports to the former Soviet Union have virtually stopped due to the failure of importers to pay their bills, and shipments are being made only of goods purchased with Korean Government loans, officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

Tied-loan exports totalled 186 million U.S. dollars for December last year alone, but prospects are bleak for the days ahead. In January, only 44 million dollars of tied-loan exports were sent to the former Soviet Union.

Korean general trading companies, including Samsung Co., Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. and Daewoo, were put on alert by notification from importers that they could not settle their bills due to the social upheaval.

The Korean trading firms are now trying to promote barter trade.

The Ministry officials said suspension of trade with the Commonwealth of Independent States was attributable to the temporary vacuum in the management of foreign currency caused by Russia's takeover of Vneshekonombank, the former Soviet Union's foreign exchange bank, and to the worsening shortage of foreign currency reserves in the CIS.

Korea's exports to the Soviet Union dwindled sharply from the second quarter of last year from 119 million dollars in the first quarter, up 17.5 percent over the same period of 1990. The volume dropped to 95 million dollars in the second quarter last year and further to 74 million dollars in the third quarter.

Exports to the Soviet Union were 288 million dollars during the first nine months last year, down 8.9 percent over the same period in 1990. Exports in October and November expanded to 135 million dollars, but 115 million dollars were paid for with government loans.

Trade Organization To Open Office in Vladivostok

SK1002031392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. [Kotra] is to open an office in the Far Eastern Russian port of Vladivostok, on Feb. 17. It will be the second Kotra office to be set up in the former Soviet Union after the one in Moscow.

The Vladivostok office will be a foothold for trade involving North Korea, China and Russia as well as for its resources development and joint ventures in Siberia, a Kotra official said Monday.

With the opening of Vladivostok to foreigners at the turn of the year, the port was fast emerging as a pivotal point in the Northeast Asian economic sphere, he said.

"Twelve Western countries, including Japan and the United States, have already applied to establish trade offices in Vladivostok," the official said, adding that many Western business concerns had moved their offices from the severe weather of Khabarovsk to the milder Vladivostok.

Especially in connection with North Korea's promotion of a special economic zone in the Tuman River area, Vladivostok could be profitably used in the country's triangular trade with North Korea and China, the official said.

Russian Reporter Researches 1983 KAL Downing

Army Kept KAL 007 Black Box

SK0802021592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Tokyo (Yonhap)—The flight data recorder of the doomed Korean Airlines' [KAL] airplane which was shot down by a Soviet fighter plane in 1983 has been kept by a Soviet Army research institute and the tombs for some of the victims exist, a senior reporter of the IZVESTIYA stated.

Andrey Ilyich who has tracked the shooting down of the Korean civilian airplane said Friday [7 February], "I have confirmed through interviews with military personnel that the flight recorder of the KAL 007 flight has been kept by a military research institute."

He made the remarks in a news conference with foreign correspondents here. He is to pay a visit to Seoul early next week.

The Korean Air flight 007 with 269 passengers aboard disappeared over the Soviet air space on its route from Alaska to Seoul on Sept. 1, 1983.

Ilyich said, "I have wondered why the bodies of the victims have disappeared and I come to know the reason."

He went on, "Small number of dead bodies were recovered and the existence of their tombs will be revealed in an article by the IZVESTIYA."

He also said that the remains of the ill-fated flight 007 which had been picked up by the IZVESTIYA will be turned over to Korea in April.

Arrives To Collect Data

SK1002120592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—Andrey Ilyich, 42, the Russian journalist who gained international fame with his 60-part story on the downing of Korean Air Lines [KAL] flight 007, arrived at Kimpo International Airport on Monday.

Ilyich, city editor at IZVESTIYA, told reporters upon arrival that he was here to gather information for a book on the downing of flight 007 by a Soviet fighter plane in 1983.

He said he wanted to meet with Foreign Ministry officials and would make public more facts about the downing of the civilian airplane during his stay.

"I brought the relevant photos and materials regarding the incident," he said, declining to say if he would turn them over to the Korean Government or make them public.

Ilyich was accompanied by Sergey Agafonov, chief of IZVESTIYA's Tokyo bureau.

No Tae-u Urges Discussing Trade Deficit With Japan

SK1002083092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday that the time had arrived for the government to come up with a concrete plan to help correct the nation's worsening trade deficit with Japan.

"Talks and accords on issues of trade imbalance and cooperation in technology between Japan and Korea are important, too," No said, "but it is time for the two nations to produce visible results in their negotiations."

The president made the remarks when he received a team of 15 working-level officials at Chongwadae [presidential office] on Monday afternoon. The team was formed to work with a Japanese team under an agreement reached at talks between No and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Seoul in January.

At that time, the two leaders agreed to address the issues by the end of June through the meetings of working-level officials.

No told the officials that he expected them to bring concrete results that would help correct the trade deficit and result in technology transfers from Japan.

Since the nation's trade deficit with Japan stemmed from technological weakness on the part of Korean industry, No said, the officials should try to work out detailed plans to accelerate technology transfers from Japan after consulting with domestic companies.

Reports Continue on 'Comfort Girls' Controversy

Document Reveals Hirohito Law

SK0702134792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1312 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Chonan, South Korea, Feb. 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—A Japanese document surfaced here Friday showing former Japanese Emperor Hirohito directly made the law enabling his government to mobilize and operate "comfort girls," euphemism for forced laborers and sex slaves, during World War II.

Yi Tong-chun, deputy director of Sungwha University library, made public a copy of Japanese statute document dated Aug. 22, 1944, he dug up from the library of the Japanese Diet earlier this month.

The 23-article document, Imperial Ordinance No. 519, details who will recruit the women and how the women will be "employed," laying legal grounds for recruitment of comfort girls.

It has the seal of Emperor Hirohito and endorsement signatures by four cabinet ministers including the then Prime Minister Kuniaki Koiso.

Article 6 says provincial governors, mayors and school presidents can order recruitment for comfort women whenever needed. Article 4 says the women should be employed for a year with an exception for those who agree to stay longer.

Article 21 says that Taiwanese and Japanese women are possible subjects of recruitment.

Papers, documents and witnesses have been surfacing linking the Japanese Government with mobilization and operation of comfort women, but this is the first time that mobilization of the comfort girls is directly linked to the emperor.

Tokyo overturned years of denial and admitted last month of government involvement in operating comfort girls, and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized.

Anywhere between 100,000 to 200,000 Korean women are believed to have been mobilized, some as young as 12 years old. Some were used as labor slaves while others were sent to the war front as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

Historians say Japan formed the comfort girls corps as early as 1937 at the start of Sino-Japanese war and belatedly legalized the operation just before the end of World War II.

The Japanese Government refuses to compensate the women victims, insisting that all reparations were settled when Seoul and Tokyo signed in 1965 a treaty on normalization of bilateral relations.

'Slave Labor' Compensation Sought

SK1002021392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0145 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP)—The Korean Government is to raise the issue with Japan of compensation for Koreans on the Russian Island of Sakhalin who were drafted as slave labor by Japan during World War II, YONHAP learned Monday.

Seoul has already called for Tokyo to compensate Korean girls rounded up by Japan and forced to provide Japanese soldiers with sex during the war.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Korean workers on the island were abandoned by the Japanese Government and Seoul would consider demanding compensation for them on a governmental level in the near future.

In addition, the government would exert every effort to help those Korean expatriates who had remained stateless take South Korean nationality if they wanted it, he said.

The Japanese Government has recently undertaken a search for materials and data related to Korean "comfort girls" and is scheduled to deliver everything it finds to Seoul by March.

The Korean Government will publish a report on Japan's abuse of Korean girls as sex slaves during the war with the help of the Japanese materials, according to the source.

Government To Propose N-S Committee

SK0802111692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1044 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 8 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea plans to propose an Inter-Korean Committee in getting facts and compensation for the "comfort girls" used as labor and sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II, a government official said Saturday.

Review is under way to make the proposal to North Korea during the sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang Feb. 18-21, either by South Korean premier in his keynote speech or at a closed-door session, the official said.

"It has become clear that the Japanese Government was responsible for recruiting and operating the comfort girls," he said, "The incident occurred before Korea's division and we believe it is desirable for South and North Korea to work together on this matter."

A document surfaced in Seoul Friday that proved Emperor Hirohito enacted an imperial ordinance in 1944 allowing recruitment of Korean women as comfort girls. Between 100,000 to 200,000 Korean women are believed to have been mobilized as labor and sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

The Seoul Government plans to propose forming an inter-Korean committee to gather more facts about the comfort girls and jointly tackle issues regarding reparations from Japan, the official said.

DPRK, Japan Discuss Compensation

SK0902054192 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned that in the process of negotiation on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea, their governments almost agreed to an amount of about $8 billion in compensation money to be paid to North Korea.

It was learned that North Korea plans to intensively invest these funds in the expansion of social overhead capital and economic development. It is expected that keen international competition over bidding for the projects to be financed by these funds will take place. Through the contacts between the South and the North authorities to be made in the future, the government plans to actively negotiate with the North Korean side to allow South Korean business firms to participate en masse in the projects to be financed by the funds from Japan. It was learned that the planned visit by An Chon-hak, president of Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Company, Limited, to North Korea is based on such a plan.

A high-ranking government official concerned revealed on 8 February: "I understand that though Japan and North Korea are still continuing behind-the-scenes negotiations on the amount of claim money, both sides have almost finished narrowing the gap in the amount of claim money." The amount of claim money which the ROK received from Japan at the time of establishing ROK-Japan diplomatic relations in 1965 was $800 million.

This official said: "I understand that in the event it receives these funds, North Korea plans to intensively invest them in expanding social overhead capital, such as electricity, roads, harbors, communication facilities, etc., and to develop the economy to break through its serious economic difficulties."

He continued to say: "In this case, as it is expected that Japan will insist on giving priority to Japanese firms' participation, the government has to form in advance ways to have the ROK's firms participate multilaterally."

The government considers that to surmount the serious economic difficulties, North Korea has to build many factories and that, above all, the solution of the electricity shortage is the most pressing even before factories are built. First of all, the government plans to discuss with the North Korean side the construction of power plants by South-North joint venture. The official disclosed that the visit by An Chon-hak, president of Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Company, Limited, to North Korea sometime this year is an indication of this basic plan of the government.

At the same time, the government is planning to negotiate this issue with the North Korean side through the South-North economic exchange and cooperation joint committee to be formed after the sixth round of South-North high-level talks slated for 18 February.

ROK Elected to UN Crime Prevention Commission

SK0802023592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] South Korea has been elected to the executive board of the new U.N.-sponsored Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Korea has one of nine seats allotted to Asian countries on the 40-member board. The other Asian members are Japan, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

A UNESCO conference in New York on Feb. 4-7 elected the first executive members of the commission, which replaces the committee on crime prevention and control. The post has a three-year term.

Finance Ministry Predicts $45 Billion Foreign Debt

SK0702125792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1016 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea's overall foreign debt is likely to soar to 45 billion U.S. dollars at the end of this year, up 5.8 billion dollars or 14.8 percent from the end of last year, the Finance Ministry predicted Friday.

Overall foreign debt totaled 39.2 billion dollars as of the end of December, up 150 million dollars from the previous month and 7.5 billion dollars from the end of the previous year, it said.

Net external debt, overall debt less overseas assets, was 12.4 billion dollars, up 200 million dollars from the previous month and 7.55 billion dollars from the end of 1990.

The ministry foresaw the continuing current account deficit would result in a sharp increase in the overall foreign debt, causing it to top 45 billion dollars at the end of this year. Net external debt would reach 18 billion dollars, up 5.6 billion dollars.

Korea's foreign debt had ebbed from 46.8 billion dollars at the end of 1985 to 44.5 billion dollars in 1986, 35.6 billion dollars in 1987, 31.2 billion dollars in 1988 and 29.4 billion dollars in 1989 before rebounding to 31.7 billion dollars in 1990.

Net foreign debt shrank from 35.6 billion dollars in 1985 to 3 billion dollars in 1989 and jumped to 4.85 billion dollars at the end of 1990.

Burma

More on Foreign Manipulation of Rohingya Issue

Part Two

BK0802105292 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0713 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Second part of article by Sithu Aung entitled: The Inside Story of the Rohingya Fable" from 8 February issue of the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY—"to be continued tomorrow"]

[Excerpts] Beginning of the story: The infamous Mujahids who began their lawless activities soon after attainment of national independence were eventually crushed by the Tatmadaw [Defense Services] so that they subsequently survived only as very poorly armed small bands, each with 20 or 25 men. They remained in that state [Rakhine or Arakan State] up to 1990 and were then two main groups—the ARIF [Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front] led by Nurul Islam and the RSO [Rohingya Solidarity Organization] led by Yunus.

At the beginning of May 1991, the ARIF and RSO declared that they would continue their struggle in collaboration with the DAB [Democratic Alliance of Burma] led by KNU Nga Mya [Bo Mya] and subserviently placed themselves under the command of the imperialist satellite—the DAB.

International news agencies began to publicize their activities from that time on. In June 1991, one (Arnas Ahmad) from REUTERS and (Nadine Gardier) from the AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] interviewed RSO leader in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and began to give publicity to insurgents who have taken the name of Rohingyas. [passage omitted]

These reports introduced the so-called Rohingya Moslem separatist terrorists as being victims to ruthless Myanmar [Burmese] prosecution for the past many years and also claimed that the Myanmar Government was forcing Moslems to build roads, bridges, military camps, and frontier area development work, that Moslems had fled because they were unable to do such work, that Rakhine Buddhists occupied villages abandoned by Moslems, that the Myanmar troops systematically raped Moslem girls, and the private relief organization has counted up to 16,000 refugees up till then. [passage omitted]

Anti-Myanmar attacks intensified in October 1991. Agitation connected with the award of Nobel Prize increased the KNU [Karen National Union] elements who infiltrated into the deltic region simultaneously. The Myanmar Tatmadaw got wise in time and succeeded in eliminating the KNU insurgents under the ferocious operation codenamed, Hmondaing [Storm]. Their idea was not an immediate uprising in the delta, they were to act in concert with the so-called Rohingya separatist insurgents operating in the remote part of Rakhine only after a gradual mobilization. That was an evil plot hatched by Nga Mya of the so-called DAB and its mentors.

To prove this fact, I have already stated that those terrorists when they were mere Mujahids were very badly armed, but in 1991 they have been reported by Western news correspondents as being equipped with AK-47's, M-16's, M-79's, RPG launchers, and other modern weapons. Where did they get these weapons from? With which fund did they buy these weapons? Where did they get those funds from? Who trained them to handle those modern weapons?

An answer to each of these questions clearly reveal who is behind them. Where did they get these weapons from? They are not supporting rifles sold on the roadside. They are standard armaments of regular army. The so-called Rohingya terrorist leaders said they got those weapons from certain Southeast Asian country. Southeast Asia does not have two arms blackmarkets where such weapons can be obtained. There is only one. According to the Cambodian Peace Agreement, both Cambodian rebel groups and the Vietnam-backed governments will have to reduce their fighting forces by 70 percent. Arms and ammunition would then become surplus to requirements. These weapons flowed across in strong streams from the east of Thailand to the west of Thailand where the KNU are.

Thai newspapers occasionally report seizures by government of such blackmarket arms. Weapons that came from Cambodia are Soviet-style AK-47 rifle and RPG rocket launchers. U.S. manufactured M-16 rifles, M-79 launchers, and Claymore mines which are U.S. Vietnam War surplus material probably have got into Thai weapons blackmarket. Thai arms blackmarketeers are Nga Mya's regular suppliers. It is therefore clear that the so-called Rohingya insurgents (?got) their weapons with the help of ABMU [All Burma Moslem Union] president, Abdul Razak, who is subordinated to Nga Mya's DAB on the Thai border.

How did they send these weapons to Bangladesh-Myanmar border? Answers can be deduced from considering how the KNU insurgents on Thai-Myanmar border got to the Irrawaddy Delta. They cut across the Bay of Begal in schooners. [announcer says the article will be continued tomorrow]

Part Three

BK0902101992 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0711 GMT 9 Feb 92

["Continuation" of Sithu Aung article: "The Inside Story of the Rohingya Fable;" "to be continued tomorrow"]

[Text] With which funds did they buy these weapons? Where did they get those funds from? Those who had listened to the BBC's 17 October 1991 broadcast of its correspondent Pam O'Toole's report might be able to guess an answer. Who have been giving weapons training to Rohingya insurgents? The BBC evening broadcast of 22 January 1992 quoted the British TIMES newspaper as saying that Afghanistan's mojahed guerrillas were giving that training. Just try to remember under who's orders the Afghan Mujahids operate and you will get an answer. Take all these pieces together into consideration and the director of the scenario will become very clear.

The Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh problems and tension were created by all means in order to divert public attention from the debacle suffered by the KNU [Karen National Union] in the delta at the end of 1991 to preempt the open season Myanmar Defense Services general offensive and to compel the Defense Services to disperse its forces to all fronts.

The BBC and the VOA also initiated the so-called Myanmar Moslem refugee problem in October 1991. In October, those radio stations stated the number of refugees to be 20,000. In November they gave the figure as 30,000 and on 26 December they had increased the number to 40,000. On 21 December, they had made allegations that a Bangladeshi border guard was killed by Myanmar troops and they had increased the number of refugees immediately after that. It is clear they did that to blow up a usual and insignificant border incident into a major issue and thus create tension between the two countries, to discredit the Myanmar Government more severely, and to solicit more donations from Moslem countries.

On 24 December 1991, the BBC said the number of refugees were 50,000, and on 19 January 1992, the BBC and the VOA said the number of refugees were 60,000. On 22 January, the BBC alleged that 15,000 Moslems had been detained to be used as human shields. That indications of the Myanmar Defense Services preparing to intrude into Bangladesh has increased, that 63,000 refugees were already in Bangladesh and 10,000 more were to follow. That about 700 young Rohingyas kept under detention in Rakhine [Arakan] State, had died of suffocation and all sorts of other allegations of concocted Defense Services persecutions. On 29 January, the BBC quoted the London SUNDAY TIMES mentioned of an interview of correspondent (John Swayne) with refugees. Among points mentioned in the interview were about a 12-year-old girl being gang raped and about a man being nailed to a tree, hacked into pieces, and so on. The refugees were described as barefoot, hungry, emaciated, debilitated, and covered with bruises, blisters, and lacerations. An English language newspaper published in Thailand carried a longer report as if a war between two nations was imminent. They continued writing for many days about reinforcements made to the Myanmar Defense Services, about the Myanmar Defense Services preparing fortifications on the border, and the Bangladeshi Government had given a highest degree alert notice to its forces.

Rumors about Myanmar that emanated in Bangladesh were reproduced unverified. They said the Myanmar Rakhine [Arakan] state commander, Major General Myo Nyunt, had formed death squads to slaughter Rohingyas, that about 200 young Rohingyas detained by the Myanmar forces had died of starvation and other baseless fabrications. There were persons who wrote such reports. There were newspapers that published such reports. There are people who read such reports and there will be some who believe in such reports. But one thing is certain. Those who believe in such reports will only be those who lack a sense of reasoning. The true story. Those who believe in such reports may not realize how diverse those reports are from reality.

I will now give an authenticated account of the truth they have concealed and covered up. It is my zeal that an elaborate identification of who the Rohingyas might be is no more needed. Full explanations have been given at press conferences and in newspaper articles. The state has also identified them in citizenship's act of 1948 and of 1982. People are entitled to be citizens, guest citizens, or naturalized citizens as such stipulated in those acts. The acts have also stipulated how future generations will come to enjoy in time a higher status of citizenship. Those who live in Myanmar will of course have to abide by Myanmar laws.

The origin of this problem was in the problem of illegal immigrants. International news agencies report about Bengalis, who have fled Myanmar in exaggerated versions but they keep Bengalis illegally entering into Myanmar concealed.

I will now cite a number of facts mentioned in a turning-point, an article published by the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW of 12 December 1991. The 114 million Bangladeshi population that keeps growing at the rate of 2.2 percent every year having to live in such a tiny part of the world has come to pose as a population menace to some neighboring countries. At this juncture, Bangladesh itself has come to speak frequently of [word indistinct], this word means export of its excess population to the state of Assam in India and to the state of Rakhine in Myanmar that are traditionally linked with the race of Bengalis without actually intruding into those lands. We have seen many ways of such infiltrations as stated in that article. India is also finding a similar problem on its borders with Bangladesh. The Indian border guards are said to have started building a barbed-wire fence in the Indian districts of Shapore and Jamalpur [names of districts as heard], contiguous to Bangaladesh. Bangladesh originally objected to this move alleging that it degraded the honor of Bangladesh. Myanmars have grown, with the belt tightened under the pressure of the burdens of such infiltrations, all through history.

Part Four

BK1002095892 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0712 GMT 10 Feb 92

["Final part" of article by Sithu Aung from THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY entitled: "The Inside Story of the Rohingya Fable"]

Since 1824, when Rakhine [Arakan] State fell under the English rule, Bengalis have started moving into Rakhine State without protest or hindrance. Especially after the 1899 opening of the Suez Canal, Myanmar [Burma] rice exports soared, more agricultural workers came to be needed, and batches of Bengalis came in as agricultural workers, and in the 1971 Bangladesh war, too, many more refugees entered into Myanmar.

The 1973 census figures revealed that the average rate of population growth for the whole of Rakhine State was 1.32 percent, but the rate of population growth for Sittwe [Akyab] and the border towns of Buthidaung and Maungdaw were 3.28 percent, 2.4 percent, and 2.35 percent, respectively. This was a sure indication of the entry of many illegal immigrants. Remoter border areas recorded population growth rates of up to 5.14 percent and 8.52 percent.

Every thinking person will realize that these population growth rates cannot arise from natural births. When in 1978, the state innumerated the population under "Operation Naga Min," those who had illegally entered fled back. This incident was exaggerated by foreign news agencies but be that as it may, the Myanmars [Burmese] generously agreed to accept back those who fled. More people returned than originally fled. Infiltration then continued after that. Population increases between 1983 and 1991 in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships had been calculated at 2.5 percent and 3.3 percent respectively for Bengalis and 1.2 percent and -0.8 percent for Rakhines [Arakanese]. This revealed that Bengalis kept infiltrating into Maungdaw Township where the Rakhine [Arakanese] population had decreased from 16,784 to 15,594. Rakhine nationals had gradually left Maungdaw Township. The indication that Rakhines had occupied villages abandoned by Bengalis can therefore be considered in this context as being untrue. If the Bengalis continue to infiltrate into Rakhine State at this rate which has doubled the population growth of Rakhine nationals, the whole of Rakhine nationality is likely to get swallowed up by Bengalis.

Rohingyas claim that Rakhine State has a population of 4.2 million of which 3 million are Moslems and of which 1.2 million had taken refuge in Bangladesh since 1942. As a matter of fact, official figures of immigration department say that on 4 June 1991, the total population was 2,256,021 of which 693,459 were Bengalis. The proportion will however change if the 1.2 million Bengalis said to have taken refuge in Bangladesh are somehow to be sent back to Myanmar.

I want to draw this back to the notice of those who believe only in foreign news agency reports. How the number of Bengalis said to have fled into Bangladesh has been inflated is already shown above month by month. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Mustafizur Rahman is said to have recently told a Bangladeshi parliament that the official count of the number of refugees was 4,500. This figure is very much in contrast to figures given in press reports. But the AIR [All India Radio] broadcasting the Bangladeshi foreign minister's report in its English language program of 4 February 1992 inflated this number to 45,000. How one more zero came to be added is for consideration, perhaps that number was what the AIR wished it to be.

The alleged Myanmar Defense Services atrocities are nothing else than pure fiction dramatized on the same extravagant scale as in cheap Indian movie productions. The Myanmar Defense Services that respect both the disciplinary rules of the Defense Services as well as the laws of the land had never tolerated such behavior. Even petty offenders are being very seriously dealt with. Officers and men of all ranks of the Defense Services are grievously hurt by such wanton accusations, the same kind of exaggerations, its slant, and reports relating to some border disputes.

Responsible officials of Myanmar and Bangladesh are already engaged in finding peaceful solutions through bilateral talks and the Bangladeshi officials have already expressed their satisfaction with the presentation made by Myanmar side. Myanmar side has also officially declared that it is not doing or has the intention of doing anything to endanger Bangladesh. The problems are all routine problems and are most trivial when we remember that the world is witnessing some highly explosive problems emerging elsewhere. As for instance, the problem of Kashmir that lies between India and Pakistan. As the two countries are continuing efforts through diplomatic channels to dissolve these insignificant problems the foreign press has been fanning up the flames by making insinuations of an imminent war between the two countries.

It is for all thinking persons to consider why they appear so worried when the parties concerned are not worried. Allegations that Myanmars are trying to Burmanize Moslems and are trying to exterminate the Moslem creed is a very amusing section. Moslems in Myanmar do not need to be Burmanized. Old Myanmar Moslems are already patriotic Myanmars. Such eminent personalities as patriotic national leader Sayagyi U Razak, Ambassador U Pe Khin, member of the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission Saya Chai are pure Myanmar Moslems. There have never been such a minority group as Myanmar Moslems. The All Burma Burma Moslem Congress held in 1946 under the chairmanship of Sayagyi U Razak had already decided by voting that Myanmar Moslems did not constitute a minority group in Myanmar. The All Burma Burma Moslem Affairs Consultative Conference held in 1961 had also categorically decided that to combine all Myanmar Moslems and designate them as a racial group was an impossible task. The move now initiated is clearly a scheme concocted by scam artistes to attract financial support from foreign Moslem countries.

Taking all the above concoctions and fabrications together as a whole it becomes very clear that the motivator is the neocolonialists, the director is KNU

[Karen National Union] insurgent Nga Mya [derogatory reference to KNU leader], and the stuntman is a group of separatists Bengali insurgents, just as poet U Ponnya had posed the queen as the motivator, the king as the director, and the Burman as the executioner.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Move To Solve Island Dispute Peacefully Hailed

BK0702142892 Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 29 Jan 92 p 6

[Editorial: "To Whom Does Batu Putih Island Belong?"]

[Text] Who is the true owner of Batu Putih Island? As for Malaysia, the island is part of its territory, but Singapore disputes this claim. The island republic also thinks that Batu Putih Island belongs to it. This means that there is a contest of ownership over this island between Malaysia and Singapore.

The claim over Batu Putih Island is being made openly by both sides and if left unchecked, it may lead to tension, or even conflict, between the two neighboring countries. A war of words over the ownership of the island, though held in a restrained manner, has developed in both Malaysia and Singapore. In Malaysia, historians have already confirmed that the island is ours.

Leaders of the two countries are aware of the implications of this issue. Therefore, they decided to take early steps to solve the problem. At their meeting in Singapore yesterday in conjunction with the ASEAN summit, the two countries' prime ministers laid down guidelines to break the deadlock caused by the mutual claim over Batu Putih Island.

During the meeting, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Datuk Goh Chok Tong agreed that Malaysia and Singapore would not go to war because of that island. The dispute will be settled through negotiations, which will be based on the principle of legality instead of historical evidence.

The decision to use the principle of legality means that the two countries' state attorney offices will play an important role in solving the territorial claim over the island, which has now been developed by Singapore for its own use.

The two sides will submit legal documents to support their claim over the island. In other words, the issue will be free from emotional prejudice. This is a fact that must be accepted by the people of the two countries from now on. We believe that the principle of legality agreed upon by the top leaders of the two countries is the best way to solve the Batu Putih island dispute.

Being close neighbors, Malaysia and Singapore have no choice but to settle all potential frictions through peaceful means and valid documents acceptable to both sides.

In all fairness, this is the only effective way to solve the issue once and for all. The issue should not be allowed to become a thorn in the two countries' relations with both sides entertaining mutual suspicion.

Being countries mutually dependent on one another in various fields, neither Malaysia nor Singapore will benefit from prolonged friction and existing cordial relations could also be affected.

Therefore, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Datuk Goh have indeed adopted a sensible policy on this issue. The two countries' leaders have shown their wisdom and maturity in coping with their common problem. The ASEAN spirit of solidarity, which has turned the region into a zone of peace, devoid of conflict, is also evident.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Postpones Trip to China, North Korea

BK0902063892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Cambodian officials said in Phnom Penh yesterday that His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, has postponed his visit at the end of this month to China and North Korea following advice by diplomats for him to stay in Cambodia at this time when political instability is reigning in Phnom Penh.

The plan of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk is to go to Beijing for a medical checkup and afterward travel on to Pyongyang, North Korea, to attend the birthday anniversary of President Kim Il-song. The planned visit by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk causes concerns among Cambodian political parties and diplomats in Phnom Penh. Diplomats in Phnom Penh say the prince's absence would cause a vacuum in leadership at a time when there is insecurity in Phnom Penh and political unrest would resume.

Sihanouk Tour of Kompong Thom Province Reported

Addresses War Refugees

BK0802095192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at a meeting at Prasat Andet Monastery on 6 February with war refugees from Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, Kompong Thom Province—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] You, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, and children, have entertained a firm belief that since Cambodia and the United Nations signed the peace agreement on 23 October 1991 this agreement will restore peace to the Cambodian motherland and end war and insecurity in the country. And after the signing of the agreement in Paris—Paris is the very prestigious capital of the French Republic—on 23 October last year, the State of Cambodia [SOC] and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] sent His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Hun Sen and Madame his wife to Beijing of the PRC in order to accompany your Samdech Euv [Prince Father] back to the motherland to become the shade, the oasis for his children and to lead our Cambodian nation toward reconciliation among all factions and toward peace, after which all factions were to unite as a single body to tackle national reconstruction for better and more prosperous life for our 8 million compatriots. This was a historic event that I would like to recall only succinctly.

The visit that I am fortunate and honored to make to these excellent districts of Kompong Thom Province is for the purpose of saying hello to all children of Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, paying my respects to all venerable monks, and taking this great opportunity to express my satisfaction at and praise for the highly patriotic activities of the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government headed by clear-sighted H.E. Hun Sen in trying even before my return to rebuild the nation, serve the people, improve the people's living conditions, revive and promote Buddhism as our national religion, and bring about all kinds of rights and freedoms for our citizens. They have thus linked themselves with the time of Samdech Euv before the coup d'etat by Lon Nol and Prince Sirik Matak in March 1970—that is, to the era of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's Popular Socialist Party] when we joined hands as a single body to build 100-percent independence and 100-percent territorial integrity into a firm base for us on which to erect and develop our nation and religion in all domains as much as we could and in accordance with the slogan: Cambodia helps itself. Or in French: Le Cambodge s'aide lui-meme.

Therefore, the CPP and SOC Government with H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, and H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin as the enlightened leaders, seeing that Samdech Euv has served the motherland and religion with loyalty, have linked themselves with Samdech Euv and with the time of Samdech Euv, relying on their own efforts in rebuilding the nation and religion. As the children of the CPP have frequently said, you have started from scratch, striving hard in line with the slogan of Samdech Euv whom you all consider your own Father: Le Cambodge s'aide lui-meme [preceding words in French], meaning that we Cambodians must rely on ourselves before we get aid from our good friends in the world.

Second, in coming here I have the special intention of saying hello to all my children, grandchildren, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and great-grandchildren who have suffered badly. There are many scenes that are distressing to both you, my children, and me. It hurts me very much to hear that many of you have experienced misfortune, especially when the Paris agreement has clearly stipulated that there must be peace, all factions must stop fighting, and we must be reconciled with one another, join hands in expanding and consolidating peace and working to bring development and culture back to the motherland, and especially link ourselves with the Angkor era. For this reason, the CPP has used another slogan to awaken all of us to the need to work for the return of peace with independence and territorial integrity and, upon that firm basis, to strive to rebuild our nation and enable it to catch up with modern times. This is because, since the coup d'etat staged on 18 March 1970 by Lon Nol and Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, our country, which before the coup was ahead of other countries, has retrogressed. In particular, during the time of Mr. Pol Pot we made even bigger steps backward and suffered untold misery.

My own family, the family of my wife, and the families of our people without exception suffered losses among many of their members. To put it bluntly I have a total of 8 million children, but of the children I have personally sired, five met the same fate as many of those in all your families in Cambodia, as the Khmer Rouge pitilessly killed them even though they had committed no crime at all. My children, not unlike H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen and his madame, were also resistance fighters who joined the Kampuchean National United Front. When the Khmer Rouge seized power under Mr. Pol Pot's control, our nation experienced a frightening disaster. Everyone who was not on Mr. Pol Pot's side suffered seriously. Your families as well as mine lost many members. Five of my children, both sons and daughters, together with their wives and husbands, were killed along with 14 of my grandchildren, including a newborn. They said anyone with royal blood must be suppressed. I thus suffered as much as you from all those deaths.

I am extremely delighted that on this occasion I am fortunate enough to see you again after our separation of 21-22 years. Yesterday in Kompong Thom town my children of Kompong Thom, including grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren whom I did not know because they were born long after I was sent into exile, called out to me: "Prince Father, Prince Father, we miss you. Please do not leave us again." I therefore would like to take the opportunity to now tell everyone that it has never been my intention or wish to desert you or be separated from you again because my life is tied to the lives of all of you, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts. No, I never want to be separated from you. I always want to live with you so we can serve the nation and build the nation together. If I have to die let me die on Cambodian soil, and let my ashes be strewn and my stupa built on

Cambodian soil. I want to stay with you, my children, until death. [applause] I do not intend to leave you.

Why, then, for the past 21 years have I not met you? That was because of Mr. Lon Nol and Mr. Pol Pot. I was a man in exile. I survived during that time thanks to the PRC and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea which fed me, my wife, and a small retinue. When I was sick their doctors treated me; when I was in despair, they nurtured me with dignity. And thus I survived until 1991 when H.E. Prime Minister and madame, on behalf of the CPP and SOC Government, came to Beijing to kindly escort me back to our country on 14 November 1991. Since then I have stayed with you, my children, and have worked with you day and night without sparing any effort because I am aware that I cannot live with you for many, many more decades.

We were separated for 21 years during which time my only desire was to serve you and join you in defending our nation, independence, and terrirorial integrity as in the past, as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum. During the time of the CPP and SOC Government, it has long been my desire to come and work, as in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum. But it is only since 14 November 1991 that I have been able to do so, to serve the nation, that is. As you can see, I have become old. I am now 70 years old, as you can see. In the past, when I was just separated from you, I was quite handsome, such as in the picture you are holding there. I thank you very much for keeping my old picture for old time's sake. Now I am very old. I am 70 years old and do not look like before. I am very much decaying. My hair has turned grey and sparse. I am almost bald now. Soon I will have to shave my head like that venerable monk over there. It will soon be quite practical to do so.

I would like to inform your venerable monks and all my children that there are many problems that we must resolve now in order to successfully and completely implement the Paris agreement of 23 October 1991. There are humanitarian, social, economic, and cultural problems because of the war from around 1970 to 1991. Therefore, there are many, many problems to overcome in order to develop our country and catch up with others. These problems are too varied, conmplex, and time-consuming to describe in detail for you here. You would not have anough time or patience to hear them all. The venerable monks, too, need to have their lunch break before noon. I, therefore, am going to shorten the explanation and deal only with peace, which is the major basis for all our undertakings to serve, defend, and build our nation in accordance with the sacred aspirations of our 8 million Cambodian people. [passage omitted]

In the second part of my speech, I would like to talk about the following: the improper activities not in accordance with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, meaning what measures should be taken in order to prevent encroachments on the territory of the SOC, avoid disputes and wars, including small wars here or there inside Cambodia, and heal all the wounds existing since the Lon Nol coup d'etat. These wounds have not yet been cured. We must take what we call remedial measures to heal these wounds, these sores so that there will no longer be any violations like the ones in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts of Kompong Thom Province.

What are these measures? In my capacity as chairman of our nation, of our Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], I have taken the following measures:

First, I have made an appeal to all parties to correctly, honestly, and with 100-percent efficiency implement all the clauses of the 1991 Paris agreement. I have met with all parties, all factions, including the party of Democratic Kampuchea that we call the Khmer Rouge, and have clearly told them that in my capacity as chairman of all parties, that is, of the SNC of our parties, I ask all parties to strictly respect the 1991 Paris agreement and refrain from doing anything against that law which is not international law but law for Cambodia. All parties have even sworn before me and before the international community, before the United Nations in particular, that they pledge to respect it without deviation. Now we have seen that some parties have occasionally deviated. I have thus told them not to deviate any more, that they must honestly implement this Paris agreement.

Second, I have made a plea and humble proposal to the United Nations, with H.E. Ambassador Ataul Karim as chief of a UN component which has arrived in our country before the arrival of the main component called UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. This UN component headed by H.E. Ambassador Ataul Karim is UNAMIC, which means the advance mission representing the United Nations. Its role is to ensure that, for the benefit of our country, we have security and properly solve the problems we still have.

H.E. Ambassador Ataul Karim, who represents the United Nations and heads UNAMIC, and H.E. French General Loridon after hearing me out had pity for me and for you, my children of Kompong Thom. Despite the problem of understaffing at UNAMIC, they decided to dispatch a small and efficient mission composed of well-qualified and compassionate officers to Kompong Thom. These officers have pity for our suffering people and although they have a heavy responsibility toward all of Cambodia, all provinces in Cambodia, they have agreed to be assigned to Kompong Thom Province. The mission stays in an office provided by the SOC in Kompong Thom town and is involved in monitoring the events and situation in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, seeing to it that calm prevails and no more attacks are launched, thus from now on ensuring peace for the people. I am confident that thanks to the mercy of the head of UNAMIC, H.E. Ataul Karim, and H.E. Gen. Loridon, my second measure will be effective. From now on, I firmly believe that my children in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts will once again enjoy peace and happiness. [applause]

Therefore, I would like to inform you, my children, grandchildren, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and great-grandchildren, and all venerable monks that if you see that peace and calm have already been restored under the excellent guidance of the authorities of Kompong Thom Province representing the SOC and CPP, you who have suffered and have fled for days, for weeks, or even for months from your homes can now return to your villages to rebuild your lives with dignity thanks to this great second measure.

The third measure is what UNAMIC itself told me yesterday when I went to Kompong Thom town in the company of the highly esteemed and beloved H.E. Chea Sim and Madame, where I paid a visit to the UNAMIC people in Kompong Thom who are present here along with their excellencies representing the five big UN countries and Indonesia. Thus, UNAMIC told me that, on the one hand, it has come in to arrange that the people will have peace again and, on the other, it has urged each of the four Cambodian factions to assign its representative, an officer, to Kompong Thom so when there is any friction, any problem, the friction or problem will be settled together between UNAMIC and the four Cambodian factions. All factions are urged to send representatives to work with UNAMIC in Kompong Thom so we can launch an immediate investigation into any friction to avoid misunderstanding or suspicion if problems arise in the future.

Therefore, we can say that this UNAMIC initiative is very good. Why? This is because if UNAMIC helps us, we will not be surprised that the people are delighted because the United Nations is there to help them. However, if officers representing the four factions work with UNAMIC in Kompong Thom too, that would even be better because any clash or friction between Cambodians will be investigated immediately by all the parties to get justice for the people without delay.

These are the measures I have already taken by making most intimate contacts. First, I talked to the four factions; second, I talked to the SOC Government, with H.E. Hun Sen as chairman and the CPP with H.E. Chea Sim as chairman; and third, I dealt with UNAMIC.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to UNAMIC with H.E. Ambassador Ataul Karim as the noble and excellent chief and H.E. Gen. Loridon as the excellent military chief; to their excellencies the ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent member states who have accompanied me here since yesterday; to H.E. the ambassador of our great friend Indonesia also present here; and to their excellencies and gentlemen representing other UN agencies and components, including the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other organizations that may or will send their representatives to see you here, in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts in particular.

I would like to end my speech at this point because all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well as my venerable monks have already been told of everything that I have the duty and honor to tell. Thank you. I pray to the triple jewel of Buddhism to protect all venerable monks of our Buddhist religion and the faithful of Islam and Christianity. [passage omitted]

Gives Talk at Hospital

BK0702142792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Speech by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk during 5 February visit to hospital in Kompong Thom Province—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father] Norodom Sihanouk, would like, first of all, to thank His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim of the CPP [Cambodian People's Party], his wife, and all excellencies, mesdames, ladies, gentlemen, and outstanding leaders of the State of Cambodia [SOC] for kindly accompanying me most attentively to meet with grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren in this superb province of Kompong Thom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the authorities of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the SOC Government in Kompong Thom Province, whom I love and have fond memories of, for arranging this brilliant and splendid reception for me.

I would like also to express my deepest thanks to grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, and people in this splendid province of Kompong Thom and Kompong Thom town, for according me a grand reception with genuine love that will provide fond memories for me. I am greatly moved by this.

I would like to thank all foreign friends who have kindly come to encourage our Cambodian people in this new era when our Cambodia has regained peace and national unity with full independence and territorial integrity.

I am very glad, particularly now, to see the progress made by our national health sector under the wise and capable leadership, full of genuine love for the people and the motherland, of H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, the CPP, and the SOC. I would like to express my warm commendation to them.

I would like especially to express my warmest thanks and commendation to my children and grandchildren who are the outstanding members of the Health Ministry working in Kompong Thom Province and Kompong Thom town. Especially, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all male and female doctors, nurses, and specialized personnel in Kompong Thom Province and this big hospital, which has made splendid achievements under the clear-sighted leadership of the CPP and the SOC Government.

My warmest thanks to the foreign friends who have kindly come to give us all kinds of assistance, particularly in the field of health.

I am fortunate and honored to have the opportunity to meet all of you, ladies and gentlemen, doctors, nurses, and all other personages from various friendly countries who have given us assistance in humanitarian and health fields, as well as representatives of the United Nations who have come to help us so that our people will be healthy and strong enough to serve, build, and defend our country.

Therefore, I would like to once again express my thanks to our foreign friends.

Now, I would like to inform all children and grandchildren that I have just seen the new achievements brought about by the CPP, particularly the surgery ward where there are modern equipment and tools for use in solving all kinds of surgery cases. I am very happy to see this progress in the field of health.

H.E. Chairman Chea Sim has given me, the head of state and father of the nation, a sum of money and some materials for distribution to the hospital and the 259 hospitalized children and grandchildren. Each patient will receive a piece of cloth for making a shirt, a sarong, a scarf, and a sum of 500 riels. A sum of two million riels is for repairing the hospital. Each of you who were relased will receive a sum of 2,000 riels, a blanket, a scarf, a piece of four-meter-long cloth for making shirts, and a sarong. [applause]

Once again, I would like to thank all children, grandchildren, male and female doctors, and nurses who have great love for the nation and people and have worked day and night to improve our people's health. You have done a good job in resolving the health problems of our people. I learned about this when I met with monks and visited all the children and grandchildren.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express my thanks and commendation to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, the CPP, the SOC Government, and the CPP and the SOC authorities in this province of Kompong Thom.

May all of you—children, grandchildren, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and particularly the children in the Kompong Thom hospital and health sector—be blessed with the Three Gems of the Lord Buddha. May you enjoy the five blessings of the Lord Buddha. Thank you very much. I am very happy to be able to meet all of you. [applause]

Sihanouk Chairs Temple Restoration Meeting 4 Feb

BK0902132692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Feb 92

["Communique of the Committee for Restoration of Cambodia's Temples and Museums;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The committee for restoration of Cambodia's temples and museums—created at the initiative of Mr. Van Molivan, a famous Cambodian architect—held a meeting at Khemarin Palace on 4 February under the highest chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of both the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and the aforementioned committee.

The objective of the meeting was to launch an appeal for financial assistance for:

1. Restoring the structures of the Angkor temple complex, including the temples of Angkor Wat and Bayon;

2. Erecting new structures and making ready new equipment for safeguarding the Angkor temple complex and the national museum of Phnom Penh.

Continuing Reportage on Various Foreign Visits

Sihanouk Meets Cham Nationals

BK0902071092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 7 February at Khemarin Palace, a delegation of 13 Cham nationals, including two from Malaysia and one from France, was received in audience by His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council.

H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk warmly welcomed the delegation's courtesy call to him and highly valued Cham compatriots' endeavor in struggling against all kinds of difficulties to preserve their traditions, culture, religion, and nationality. He profoundly thanked the Cambodian People's Party, the State of Cambodia Government, and the Cambodian populace for their care and favorable conditions provided to the Cham compatriots and their respect for the Cham customs and religion as it was in the era of the Sangkum Reas Niyum.

Tie Banh Receives French Delegation

BK0902064692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 3 February at the Army Foreign Relations Department, His Excellency [H.E.] Tie Banh—member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and member of the Supreme National Council—held cordial talks with a French National Assembly delegation led by H.E. Jean-Michel Boucheron, chairman of the House National Defense Committee and commander of the French Army.

H.E. General Tie Banh briefed his guest about the development of the military situation, especially that related to the implementation of the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord, pointing out that the Polpotist faction continued to create instability in violation of a cease-fire agreement. For instance, the group recently plundered property of and constantly wreaked havoc on the innocent people in Kompong Thom Province. He reaffirmed that the SOC Government forces always [passage indistinct] to safeguard security and peace for the nation and motherland.

For his part, H.E. Jean-Michel Boucheron expressed deepest thanks to the defense minister for having briefed him about the actuality, making the visiting French parliamentary delegation more clearly understand the situation in the country. Afterward, H.E. Jean-Michel Boucheron conferred a medal from the Armed Forces of the French Republic on H.E. Gen. Tie Banh.

Hun Sen Meets ADB Delegation

BK1002063492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0408 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 10—Premier Hun Sen receives in Phnom Penh Friday a delegation of the Asian Development Bank led by Director Noritada Morita.

Premier Hun Sen told his guest of the latest development in Cambodia especially the national economy thus requiring to rehabilitate immediately [sentence as received].

With regard to the political issue, Premier Hun Sen said the peace process in Cambodia has created favourable conditions for the development of national economy in the country.

In reply, Mr. Noritada Morita hailed the outcome of the peace process in Cambodia and praised Premier Hun Sen's effort for his contribution to peace in Cambodia.

Hor Namhong Receives ADB Delegation

BK1002062892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 10—Cambodia Foreign Minister Hor Namhong received here last Friday Noritada Morita, director of Asian Development Bank (ADB) program.

Hor Namhong, who is also member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), qualified the ADB delegation's visit and the Cambodia-ADB cooperation as a new step forward in the consolidation of solidarity between Cambodia and ADB.

Mr. Morita said the ADB would provide loans to Cambodia for the restoration of agriculture, electricity supply, communications and education in conformity with the peace agreement signed in Paris last October.

Mr. Morita told Hor Namhong in detail ADB plan to provide technical, planning, financial and banking assistance to Cambodia.

Chakkrapong Meets Tourism Cadres

BK0902093192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 7 February, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], held cordial talks with leading cadres of the Cambodian General Department of Tourism in order to examine and solve a number of difficulties experienced in promoting the tourist sector.

On that occasion, Mr. Cheam Yiep, director general of the general department, expressed warm welcome to the prince, who came to chat with the leading cadres, saying this gesture constitutes a great encouragement for the tourist department staff. He briefed Prince Norodom Chakkrapong on the results of his performance in the management of the tourist sector infrastructure and about other activities that the department had undertaken to expand and promote tourism in Cambodia, making it a vitally important economic spearhead. Mr. Cheam Yiep also raised a number of difficulties encountered in carrying out works in the tourist sector, such as lack of the means of transportation, difficulties in managing the tourist sector infrastructure, as well as other issues concerning foreign investment and tourist services.

Taking the floor, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong said he was very proud to have been trusted and allowed by the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC Government to participate in national construction in accordance with the policy of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council. He added that at present, expansion and development of the tourist sector is an issue of vital importance, since the country is now politically and militarily stable and endowed with favorable geographical conditions and natural and cultural resources that meet the requirements of tourists from every corner of the world.

The prince accounted for a number of strategic measures to reinforce and promote the tourist sector and boost tourists' confidence and satisfaction. He also helped solve the difficulties stemming from the lack of the means of transportation and in opening a center for training tourist specialists by encouraging the use of foreign investment and the promotion of cooperation with services concerned to jointly implement with high efficiency the task in the tourist sector.

Chakkrapong Greets DPRK Ambassador

BK1002054292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 7 February at the Council of Ministers, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, met and had a cordial talk with His Excellency [H.E.] Kim Hyong-yol, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cambodia.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong expressed profound thanks to the ambassador and the North Korean Government and people for giving all kinds of support, morally and materially, to him during his (?visit to) Korea and for contributing to the search for peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

In his reply, H.E. Kim Hyong-yol expressed his joy and stressed that he would make every effort to carry out his diplomatic mission in Cambodia successfully.

Red Cross Team Visits Faction-Controlled Areas

BK0802081092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0112 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 7 Feb (SPK)—A team of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] carried out, for the first time, a mission to Cambodia's northeastern region controlled by the two noncommunist factions, namely National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], ICRC announced in Geneva on Thursday [6 February].

Two ICRC teams, one from Cambodia and the other from the Thai border, were conducting a humanitarian survey mission from 3 to 9 February. It is worth recalling that FUNCINPEC and KPNLF are made up of followers respectively of Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Son Sann.

The ICRC teams would also discuss with local officials the release of war prisoners and civilian inmates that they would still hold up, pointed out the humanitarian organization, recalling that the release is specified in the Paris accord signed by the four Cambodian parties on 23 October 1991.

"ICRC has also demanded Democratic Kampuchea to allow it to conduct the same mission to the zone controlled by the faction in the immediate future," mentioned ICRC.

FUNCINPEC Holds No Political Inmates

BK0802052492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0428 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 8—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is satisfied that the Cambodian resistance party FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] is holding no political prisoners, AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS] quoted its chief here as saying Friday [7 February].

"We visited their zone and we saw no prisoners," said ICRC Head Jean-Jacques Fresard.

ICRC is charged with overseeing the release of Cambodia's policical prisoners and prisoners of war as outlined in the Paris agreement ending the nearly 13-year civil war.

While it is currently overseeing releases in Phnom Penh government-controlled areas, it has spent the last week making an inspection of the areaa along the Thai border controlled by the former resistance factions.

FUNCINPEC, the party headed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had released a group of prisoners in December, Fresard said.

The ICRC representatives were able to interview 12 former prisoners in the FUNCINPEC zone and were satisfied that no more were being held, he said.

ICRC personnel were inspecting the zone held by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front on Friday [7 February] and would report the results early next week, Fresard said.

An inspection of the zone held by the Khmer Rouge would be carried out later this month, but no date has been set, he said.

Khmer Rouge Attacks in Kompong Thom Discussed

BK0802042492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0133 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 7—Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned Thursday [6 February] from a visit to the northern Cambodian town of Kompong Thom, where some 20,000 Cambodians made homeless by the worst cease-fire violation yet are sheltering.

"I don't know which faction was at fault, because I was unable to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the affair. But what matters is not finding the culprit, but putting an end to these skirmishes," Sihanouk said on his return from his second visit in two days to Kompong Thom.

The prince was referring to fighting in the region in late December and early February, in violation of the October peace accords ending Cambodia's 13-year civil war.

However, Prime Minister Hun Sen, who accompanied the prince, had no doubt who was to blame. "It was the Khmer Rouge who attacked these villagers, he said.

The fighting forced villagers living 30-40 kilometres (19-25 miles) northeast of Kompong Thom to flee their homes, displacing some 20,000 people, according to the latest estimates.

Many villagers are unwilling to return home, fearing that mines may have been laid since they left.

"The installation of the UN advance mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) in Kompong Thom will enable this trouble spot to return to peace and stability," Sihanouk said.

UNAMIC military liaison officers have been deployed in Kompong Thom since the end of January. The prince said representatives of each of Cambodia's former warring factions were also present in the town.

"The presence of UNAMIC will at least have a psychological impact. What matters is that the UNAMIC flag is flying over Kompong Thom," said Hun Sen.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is looking after with the homeless villagers, for whom the World Food Programme has supplied 110 tonnes of rice.

UNAMIC officials and ambassadors of the five U.N Security Council permanent member countries, as well as Hun Sen and Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, accompanied the prince.

Khmer Rouge Violations Detailed

BK0802130792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Speech by Un Noeng, vice chairman of the Kompong Thom Provincial Party Committee and first vice chairman of the province's People's Committee, at 6 February meeting with Kompong Thom war refugees—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I request your royal permission to present to Samdech Euv [Prince Father], head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, on this solemn occasion a report on the actual situation of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who have suffered and are suffering at the hands of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, particularly Pol Pot's Division 616 and Division 802, which have committed and are continuing to commit fierce and savage armed tragedies against your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in many villages and communes throughout the province.

Besides violations through military activities, the Polpotists are actively implementing their perfidious political warfare in opposition to the Paris agreement as follows:

First, they have announced the dissolution of the State of Cambodia's local state authorities and the establishment of local national councils.

Second, not all units of their front-line forces are prepared for the 70 percent disbandment; they have announced that they will resolutely carry on a protracted war.

Lately, they have conducted looting, robberies, murders, and arson in a most savage manner.

Since the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991, the Polpotists have refused to abide by the agreement and have instead 116 times intensified shelling and attacks on the frontline positions of the State of Cambodia's Army and on villages of innocent people, including eight attacks against positions, 43 shellings of positions, eight raids on positions, three car ambushes, 17 trips to transport ammunition to villages, six mining operations along roads, six murders of cadres, 20 robberies, and five kidnappings of civil servants and people.

As a matter of fact:

1. On 11 November 1991 some 200 Polpotists launched a large-scale infantry attack on the people's villages and communes, including Krek and Prey Khla Villages of Pralay Commune, Stoung District, causing deaths, injuries, fire, and losses in property to 52 families.

2. On 18 December 1991 some 60 Polpotists ambushed a car convoy transporting food and supplies for the army on National Route 12 at Trapeang Preah, killing 10 passengers, including three children, wounding 15 other people, damaging a car beyond repair, setting two cars ablaze, and slightly damaging another car. All the materials on the cars and goods carried on the bodies of the people were taken away. A man named Kuch Ol, 37, of Sla Ket Village, Ward No.8 of the provincial seat, witnessed the incident and managed to escape. Unfortunately, his younger brother and sister were killed on the spot by the Polpotists' B-40 rockets.

3. On 26 January 1992 alone, 25 Polpotists launched two fierce infantry attacks against travelers on National Route 6 at Kbel, Sankor, Cheuteal, and Tbeng Villages, killing three war refugees and four soldiers, wounding three villagers, and seizing six motorcycles, a bicycle, three pairs of oxen, and more than 1 million riel from the travelers.

4. Recently, on 31 January 1992 at 0750, 15 Polpotists fired four B-40 rockets into the compound of Sankor monastery. [passage omitted]

400 SRV Troops Sent to Ratanakiri Province

BK1002012692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report sent from Bar Kev District of Ratanakiri Province on 24 January, the Vietnamese aggressors have sent 400 fully armed Vietnamese troops to Ta Kuk village in the Bar Kev District of Ratanakiri Province.

The report added that these Vietnamese troops were ordered to dress up like Cambodian people and pretend to search for gold.

Disguised as such, these Vietnamese troops can: first, seek information on the resistance forces; second, arrest and kill the people; and third, launch offensive or intervention operations when needed.

This clearly attests to the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors have kept sending their forces to continue occupying Cambodia in line with Vietnam's Indochinese Federation strategy.

Everywhere throughout Cambodia, the Vietnamese aggressors have deployed troops, arms, ammunition, and war materiel and launched activities at will in violation of the agreement because they are not controlled by anyone.

Our people in Bar Kev District demand that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] be sent for deployment in Cambodia as soon as possible and that its offices be set up in areas which have already been defined to verify the activities of the Vietnamese aggressors and the four Cambodian factions in line with the Paris document dated 23 October 1991. In particular, they demand that the UNTAC join with the Supreme National Council [SNC], headed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, in verifying the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor troops from Cambodia.

Our people in Bar Kev District stated that, as the victims, they have the full right to do anything for the correct implementation of all the points of the agreement.

SRV Troops, Artillery Sent to Takeo Province

BK1002013492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] A report from Tram Kak District of Takeo Province said that on 28 January, the Vietnamese aggressors sent six truckloads of 105-mm artillery shells and three cannons to Tram Kak District of Takeo Province. Three truckloads of these shells and two cannons were deployed in Trapeang Andaeuk and another cannon and three truckloads of shells were sent to their positions in Tram Kak and Trapeang Kes villages in Tram Kak District. The Vietnamese aggressors also sent 80 truckloads of Vietnamese troops for deployment in these two villages.

The report also said that the Vietnamese aggressors have prepared these troops and artillery shells for use in their coming offensive.

Our people said that the Vietnamese aggressors have arrogantly carried on their activities in gross violation of the agreement because the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has not yet deployed in Cambodia in order to work with the Supreme National Council [SNC], headed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, in verifying the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor troops from Cambodia. [passage omitted]

SRV Preparing Dry-Season Offensive in Mondolkiri

BK1002020792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report from Mondolkiri Province, the Vietnamese aggressors' military command in Mondolkiri Province is preparing large and small units of their aggressor forces in the province for more offensives during this 1992 dry season.

By making preparations for military offensives, the Vietnamese aggressors have grossly violated the cease-fire and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The Cambodian nation and people, who have been victimized at the hands of the Vietnamese aggressors for more than 13 years, want to quickly achieve peace and have firmly condemned this Vietnamese aggressors' offensive plan. The entire Cambodian nation and people pledge to continue joining into a great national union in order to thwart the Vietnamese dry-season offensive. They will absolutely not stand still to let the Vietnamese aggressors bully them at will.

SRV Soldiers Included in A-3 Police

BK0902011292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] There have been reports saying that the Vietnamese aggressors recently brought 1,000 new Vietnamese soldiers from Ho Chi Minh City to include them into the A-3 police of the Phnom Penh side. The Vietnamese aggressors have brought their new soldiers into the A-3 police of the Phnom Penh side in order to tighten the grip on the A-3 police and carry out all kinds of activities to create insecurity in Phnom Penh to prevent the Paris agreement from being implemented, prevent the Supreme National Council [SNC] from functioning normally in Phnom Penh, and prevent the dispatch of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to Cambodia to cooperate with the SNC in checking the Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia.

The entire Cambodian nation and people, like His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, have insistently demanded the dispatch of UNTAC to Cambodia in order to cooperate with the SNC in ensuring that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that these forces do not come back to Cambodia.

If the so-called problem arises—that only 20 million dollars are available—it is imperative to dispatch only 1,000 UNTAC personnel to Cambodia and deploy between 500 and 700 of them in Phnom Penh with the remaining deployed in various provinces to prevent the Vietnamese aggressors from violating the Paris agreement at will, particularly from bringing in weapons and ammunition to continue their aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

Meeting Held With Thai Officials on Road Project

BK0602054692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0145 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 5—A senior Phnom Penh official held a meeting in Poipet, Cambodia Tuesday with Thai officers on plans for reconstruction by Thai soldiers of a road in northwestern Cambodia that is to be used as a major refugee repatriation route, reported AFP [Agence France-Press].

The Thai soldiers are expected to cross the border in the next few days to start work on repairing a 48-kilometer (29-mile) stretch of highway five between this border town and Sisophon.

After their meeting with Sisophon Province Governor It Loeu, the officers drove along the highway—in effect a narrow dirt road—to survey it, the sources said.

The officers are to lead 447 soldiers from an engineering unit which left its headquarters in Ratburi Province, south of Bangkok Monday for Cambodia under an agreement between Thailand and the Phnom Penh administration.

Some 370,000 Cambodian refugees are housed in a string of camps along Thailand's border with Cambodia. Most of them are expected to go to northwestern Cambodia when the camps are emptied following a peace accord signed last year between Phnom Penh and a guerrilla coalition.

Outcome of 22d Assembly Session Acclaimed

BK0802032592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 5 Feb 92

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Great National Union and Internal Unity Will Lead Us Toward Our Ultimate Principal Goal"—date not given]

[Text] The State of Cambodia [SOC]'s First National Assembly concluded its 22d session which was held from 27 to 31 January at the time when the country and nation were faced with difficulties and complications both politically and economically. The assembly meticulously examined every issue by taking into account the concrete national and international situation. This is to protect the people's rights, freedom, and interests and to adequately implement the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord.

At this session, the assembly approved six laws to improve the administrative, economic, and judicial structures, security, and social order. It elected Prince Norodom Chakkrapong as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Sar Kheng as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister, and H.E. Sin Song as minister of national security. Moreover, the assembly also raised the issue of restoring and developing the communications and transport infrastructure, ports, airports, posts and communications network, irrigation system, electricity production, and clean water supply all of which play a vital role in serving the needs of our people's lives and promoting our national economy.

The assembly highly esteemed the Council of Ministers for its efforts in improving the country's economic and financial situation, overcoming all manner of difficulties and obstacles to stabilize and improve the people's living. The assembly was of the opinion that these economic difficulties which have greatly affected the society and nation need to be solved according to the concrete situation in the country at present. Now more than ever, the state fundamentally needs stability to solve every issue. Therefore, it has to expand its legitimacy aimed at ensuring the permanency of the state authority, the daily livings of the people across the country, and the appropriate implementation of the peace accord.

The assembly urged the government to take necessary measures to increase state revenue, practice thrift, curtail red tape, and stamp out corrupt practices in society. It also called on the government to introduce effective measures in a timely manner to resolve all complicated problems and commit for court trial those who break the law or embezzle state assets. In addition, the assembly also asked the government to take legal steps to combat those who intend to stir up confusion in the society and commit terrorist and divisive acts with the intent of creating insecurity and instability in the society. The assembly considered that the protection of the present ownership is necessary and in conformity with the prevailing trend in the society to dodge a war of ownership that could bring about new bloodshed. The assembly made public a communique announcing that those who commit any kind of terrorist acts will be most harshly punished. It also adopted laws condemning terrorism and punishing those who carry guns and wear military uniforms without authorization. The assembly also asked the government to draft a law on journalism to serve as a foundation for the correct use of rights and freedom in accordance with genuine democracy.

The assembly paid high esteem to His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, for having displayed constant physical and moral efforts in leading the process of national reunification on the basis of maintaining his neutral stance and good relations with all Cambodian parties. It profoundly thanked the entire international community for having strived, in all possible ways, to enhance Cambodia's peace and reconstruction.

The assembly called on all the Cambodian parties to actively join hands to solve the remaining issues with the view of organizing free general elections in the future. This is to allow the people to enjoy their rights to self-determination to open up, in a democratic manner and according to a multi-party system, a new epoch of leadership and national reconstruction. However, the assembly held that achieving the ultimate goal is not that easy and without difficulties; and ensuring the people's daily livings and administering the state and society in stability at this stage are a heavy burden of the government.

The assembly appealed to the Cambodian people across the country to heighten their patriotism, actively participate in undertaking the kind of work beneficial to the country and nation, and properly execute every provision of the 23 October peace accord. Confidence, cooperation, and understanding of the difficulties currently faced by the government in carrying out all kinds of tasks constitute a comfortable support that our SOC government badly needs more than ever before. All in all, great national union and unity will lead us toward our ultimate principal goal which is peace.

Indonesia

German Official Discusses East Timor Incident

BK0702125692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0947 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 7 (OANA-ANTARA)—Vice President of the German Federal Parliament Hans Klein reaffirmed here Friday that he had no doubts about the Indonesian Government's efforts in handling the 12 November incident in Dili, and believed those responsible would be brought to court based on the law.

After hearing explanations directly from President Suharto, we are convinced and have no doubts about the measures taken by the Indonesian Government in coping with the incident, Klein said at a press conference at the German Embassy here.

Klein led a German Federal Parliament delegation on a six-day visit to Indonesia in return of the visit to Germany by Indonesian House Speaker M. Kharis Suhud in 1990.

The German Federal Parliament vice president said that his side respected the initiative of President Suharto to form an enquiry team which investigated the incident thoroughly, and his statement to bring to court those responsible. Klein refused to comment on the planned visit this weekend by the United Nations envoy Amos Wako to Dili, saying he was not in the position [words indistinct].

During his visit in Indonesia, he met with State Minister for Research and Technology B.J. Habibie, Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance and Industry Radius Prawiro, Trade Minister Arifin Siregar and State Minister for Development Planning Saleh Afiff.

The trade balance between Indonesia and Germany showed an encouraging development in recent years.

Technical cooperation attache at the German Embassy Manfred Scholz said that the German exports to Indonesia in 1990 totalled 2.418 billion Deutsche marks, while its imports from Indonesia accounted for 1,472 billion Deutsche marks. In the first half of 1991, the German exports to Indonesia stood at 1.381 billion DM, an increase by 29.4 percent while its imports reached 937 million DM or an increase of 31.8 percent.

Germany's exports to Indonesia include machineries for leather and textile industries, chemical products, automotives, electronics and passenger ships.

Indonesia meanwhile exports textile commodities, palm oil, coconut, furniture, plywood, coffee, cocoa and spices.

He said that in 1990, Germany's aid through the IGGI [Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia] was valued at 110 million DM in the form of soft loans with a grace period of 10 years and a repayment period of 40 years. Of the amount, 10 million DM was in the form of grant for the development of tropical forests. Besides, Germany also provided Indonesia with grant amounting to 30 million DM in the form of technical aid in the same year.

In 1991, the German aid through the IGGI also totalled 110 million DM in the form of soft loan and five million DM was in the form of grant plus 25 million DM technical aid.

Dailies Comment on Outcome of ASEAN Summit

Need For Consensus Awareness Noted

BK0802030192 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 31 Jan 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Consensus Practice Must Be Maintained"]

[Text] From the day it was revealed after a cabinet session in Kuala Lumpur some time ago, Malaysian officials have insisted on pursuing the proposed East Asian economic forum while outsiders have not ceased to question it. There were serious exchanges of views within ASEAN and mixed reactions from interested circles outside the region.

Now results of the recent ASEAN summit reveal one definite thing about the East Asia Economic Economic Caucus (EAEC), that final action on the proposal remains pending. As a consequence, reference of it in the Singapore Declaration of 1992, one of the summit's three signed documents, was abscure, imprecise and somewhat non-committal, in sharp constrast to the "full support" of APEC given by the ASEAN heads of government.

It should have been clear to everyone as long as three full days before the summit when the ASEAN foreign ministrs concluded their discussion that the EAEC proposal got no further than it did at the association's economic ministers meeting last October, when it was endorsed. But then officials continued to issue contradictory remarks, so that, as some cynics would put it, the more one talks about the proposal the less one really knows what it is and where it leads to exactly.

A week ago yesterday, the joint session of ASEAN foreign and economic ministers in Singapore had in effect decided to recommend to the heads of government that the proposal be further refined at the senior officials' level. A statement like this at almost all ASEAN meetings usually implies that formal acceptance of a certain proposal will be postponed until the next round.

Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus had even then added another dimension to the EAEC controversy, namely its political overtone. He told newsmen that more discussion was needed on the proposal, among foreign ministry and economic officials, because "the consensus was that the (EAEC) is obviously not just an economic document (but) has political implications."

It is evident that discussion of the proposal here and elsewhere has been exhaustive with a consensus as the only key thing missing. A previous article in this column (Jan. 18 editiorial) suggested, in brief, that ASEAN should make clear that the EAEC is for cooperation and not confrontation.

Yet, despite what Manglapus had said, which subtly indicated that the proposal in its entirety would not reach the summit stage pending further assessment, why did it persist as a "hot" news item? No doubt this was so because the press were still getting different statements from other official ASEAN sources.

Clearly, the EAEC exercise provides ASEAN a useful lesson that in itself could be made a matter for ASEAN consensus. One of this is that whenever an ASEAN policy initiative is proposed, it must firstly be debated at length internally and that any public disclosure shall be done only after full accord is achieved.

Alternatively, any ASEAN forum can be used as a platform to convey a member's national aspiration, preferably with deference to the sensibilities of the other members. However, we fear such a practice might diminish the ASEAN-ness of ASEAN.

So, let us therefore continue to make ASEAN a model of effective consensus-building irrespective of the divergent national priorities of the member states and peoples. As a matter of fact, as the association commemorates its silver jubilee this year we should remain confident that decision-making based on consensus has proven to be one of its strongest pillars.

Results Called Satisfying

BK0802143692 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "The Outcome of the Fourth ASEAN Summit Has Satisfied All Parties"]

[Text] The fourth ASEAN summit, held in Singapore 27-28 January, has ended and produced the 1992 Singapore Declaration. From what we have read and heard from the media, we know that ASEAN heads of state have expressed their satisfaction over the summit results. Minister-State Secretary Murdiono described the summit as being capable of fulfilling earlier expectations—namely, a summit capable of adopting fundamental resolutions in all fields of cooperation.

The 1992 Singapore Declaration among other things quoted ASEAN leaders as saying that ASEAN would continue to expand its economic and political cooperation with a view to maintaining peace and prosperity in the region.

No less important is ASEAN determination to safeguard its collective interests in response to the establishment of big and powerful economic groupings by industrialized countries. In this connection, ASEAN will promote open economic systems and stimulate more economic cooperation in this region.

The recently concluded summit is also noteworthy in terms of its timing. Against a background of changes, the impact of which are being felt in ASEAN and other countries in Southeast Asia, the summit was held to serve as an important forum and platform for formulating new strategies to cope with the new changes and development.

Before the summit opened, analysts managed to voice their view that the rationales for ASEAN unity, such as the Cambodian conflict and the PRC or SRV threat, have disappeared. As such, ASEAN must return to its basic task—namely, trying to contain any potential conflicts among its own members. It is inevitable for ASEAN to have occasional internal friction. Up to now, a number of disputes have not yet even been solved. However, it is also a fact that despite these shortcomings, ASEAN has also had significant achievements—among other things, an economic growth rate which is one of the world's highest. As far as security is concerned, ASEAN can be said to have successfully maintained regional stability, which has made such high economic growth possible.

After several security-related issues were identified and continued to be hot topics of discussion, ASEAN leaders shifted their attention to the obvious changes in the economic field.

It is easy for us to understand this. In fact, despite the existing potential conflicts, the urgent nature of security, military, and political issues has decreased. On the other hand, economic issues are becoming more and more urgent.

As was mentioned in the Singapore Declaration, the emergence of big and powerful economic groupings within the industrialized countries, which tend to adopt protectionist policies, requires appropriate responses from ASEAN.

Such responses are reflected in the declaration and agreements which pay special emphasis to economic matters. What the leaders had signed were a Framework Agreement to Enhance ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Common Effective Preferential Tariffs, CEPT, for the ASEAN Free Trade Area.

Observers believe that such a move will lead to economic integration of the regional grouping and is aimed at maintaining its economic competitiveness and enhancing its political influence.

Strictly speaking, the above mentioned economic agreements reflect ASEAN leaders' commitment to merge the markets of 330 million people. This will be one of the most meaningful economic initiatives taken by ASEAN in its 25-year-old existence.

When all the agreements and commitments adopted by the ASEAN summit are translated into reality, ASEAN is expected to have high, efficient, and productive economic competitiveness. All these qualities constitute important elements to cope with the increasingly formidable global economy.

Another noteworthy agreement involves efforts to strengthen existing ASEAN institutions, such as the Secretariat in Jakarta, and enhance cooperation in other areas, such as finance, agriculture, transportation, and communications.

The ASEAN summit also welcomes the desire by Vietnam and Laos to become signatories to the Southeast Asian Amity and Cooperation Treaty. ASEAN will then try to have it ratified by the United Nations.

It is no surprise that ASEAN leaders are satisfied with the results of their recent summit. Being the largest ASEAN country, Indonesia is especially satisfied because the summit has reconfirmed policies adopted by ASEAN and fully endorsed by Indonesia.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said these policies are related to national and regional resilience as well as efforts to upgrade the existing security cooperation network.

We are confident that the summit results and spirit will be able to maintain the importance of ASEAN and will also show its readiness to face the challenges of the coming era.

Summit Achievement Hailed

BK0802154892 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 30 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Greater Cohesion"]

[Text] Although perhaps not as advanced as some of us could have wished, it is not an exaggeration to say that given the prevailing objective conditions in this region, the just concluded Singapore Summit of ASEAN Heads of Government in Singapore has been quite fruitful in formulating a common stance to answer the challenges of a changed world. As was expected, the most concrete steps—and the ones that understandably have received the lion's share of the publicity—were taken in the economic sphere, where the specter of new trading blocs has in the past years underscored the need for closer cohesion among the six ASEAN members.

The Framework Agreement on Exchanging ASEAN Economic Cooperation (FAEAEC) which the six heads of government signed in Singapore on Tuesday [28 January] commits all the members of the Southeast Asian regional organization—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—to forming an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) by 2008. The regional community is to be phased in over the 15 years beginning in 1993 through a Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT). Although it is true that it still remains to be seen whether enough political will can now be generated to implement the plan, the step is obviously a landmark in intra-ASEAN cooperation.

Observers, however, believe that although the tariff cuts which the plan prescribes will not be easy for certain domestic industries in the individual member countries, the speedy changes that are taking place on the world's political landscape and the emergence of new economic blocs have effectively convinced the leaders of the six countries that steps towards closer cooperation must be taken.

Less emphasized, but certainly not less important are the decisions that have been made in the political and security fields. Although the concept of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) is still considered relevant, the ASEAN leaders agreed to use the existing platforms to promote external as well as intra-ASEAN dialogs on regional security cooperation. "To enhance this effort, ASEAN should intensify its external dialogs in political and security matters by using the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference," [PMC] the declaration said.

Furthermore, the document said the association should seek avenues to engage member states in new areas of cooperation in security matters and forge closer relationships with the Indochinese countries, following the settlement of the Cambodian problem. It must be in that spirit that Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas has indicated the possibility of expanding the dialog partners' forum at the annual PMC. There has been talk about the possibility of India being invited for the first time as an observer at the coming PMC meeting scheduled to be held in Manila in July, where China will in all likelihood also be present as an observer, for the second time.

Another decision made at the Singapore Summit has been to seek the cognizance of the United Nations for the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and to try to implement the ZOPFAN concept and the Southeast Asian Nuclear Free Zone in consultation with friendly countries. In short, although as yet limited in scope, it seems that the Singapore Summit has effectively paved the way for wider dialogs on regional security matters. With ASEAN due to celebrate its 25th anniversary in August, such progress is of course welcome in a time of swift changes such as the present.

To talk about changes in the world's shifting security balance is of course not to exclude our own regional concerns. Indeed, we believe that open and comprehensive dialogs among the members of ASEAN will be especially useful in eliminating the distrust and antagonism that still exist within ASEAN itself in order to achieve true cohesion. In the final analysis, this is the base on which all the other spheres of cooperation must stand.

Philippines

Barnes Said 'Still Alive' as Deadline Expires

HK1002030292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] A deadline set by the authorities for the return of Micheal Barnes, vice president of Philippine Geothermal Inc., expires today. However, members of Task Force Barnes believe that the American is still alive and may still be set free.

Barnes, who has lived in Manila since 1986, was kidnapped by armed men in a parking lot near his office on 17 January.

According to General Gerardo Flores, deputy director of the Philippine National Police, who is in charge of negotiations for Barnes' release, the police are trying everything to solve this case in an orderly manner.

Laurel Supports Presence of U.S. Poll Observers

HK1002030992 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel called on the government to allow a U.S. observer team to visit the country during the coming 11 May elections. He said that there is no reason for the government to block the entry of the Americans, who will monitor the election procedures and the poll results. Laurel's support for sanctioning the presence of U.S. observers followed reports that the U.S. Government is sending a group of Peace Corp volunteers next week. He added that their presence will help assure clean and honest elections.

Aquino Reiterates Support for Ramos Candidacy

HK1002072192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0935 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Speech by Philippine President Corazon Aquino at official announcement of the Struggle of Filipino Democrats-EDSA (Epifanio de los Santos Avenue) candidates for the Senate at the University of Life auditorium in Manila—live; italicized passages in English]

[Text] Our next president, Eddie Ramos. [applause] Our next vice president, Lito Osmena. [applause] Our 24 courageous candidates for the Senate. [applause] *My beloved countrymen: Exactly six years ago today* all of us voted during the snap elections. When you and I voted, what was in our minds and hearts? For my part, I fully believed that one, two, or even a hundred Marcoses were no match for the Filipino people, and you proved this to be true. [applause]

It is true that I was cheated. In fact, when I walked down the streets after my predecessor was proclaimed, the people were still asking: Cory, what are we going to do? Every time I went out they always said: Cory, just tell us what we should do.

As you know, I was only familiar with rallies then. So I talked to my political advisers; the leaders of the opposition then. I asked them: Why don't we hold another rally?

According to the political professionals, no one calls for a rally after elections have ended, especially when a candidate does so. So it was impossible to hold a rally.

So I asked about the people who kept on asking me: Cory, what are we going to do? Couldn't we hold one last rally?

If the people came, that meant we would have to continue our struggle for the restoration of democracy. If none of them showed up, then I could just keep quiet and say: Thanks to the country, but Cory Aquino's time has not yet come.

So if you recall, I called for a rally at the Luneta. My political advisers had asked me where I would like this rally to be held. I asked if it could be held at the Luneta, but they said the Luneta is such a big place and could we not choose a smaller place.

I told them it was now or never and that we should try the Luneta. If we could not fill the Luneta, we would just desist for we would have done all we could.

But you astonished me on 16 February. The Filipino people astonished me with the biggest rally ever! [crowd cheers and applauds] You know, at that time not one party gave me victory. It was because I did not have a party. I can never repay my debt to the Filipino people.

I thought that it was enough for me to restore democracy. We were able to restore democracy at EDSA. But I did not imagine that our enemies would subject me to so many coup attempts. And I can tell you this: Every time Eddie Ramos called during those times of the coup attempts, I got really nervous. I would say: Oh no, here is Eddie Ramos again with another report of a coup attempt.

Eventually some of my friends told Eddie to call me up even when there was no coup. They asked him to call when there was good news, like when they caught some NPA [New People's Army] rebels. And Eddie did that.

Why am I still sweating it out? Why don't I just take things easy? Some have told me that I've done enough for the country. They say that for six years I have nurtured democracy and been able to cope with all that my enemies have done and that I can now pass on this democracy to the next administration.

But I said to myself, we have had six years of democracy which is like a child that needs further nurturing.

There are those who ask me why I have chosen Eddie Ramos when I have known the other candidates and been friendly with them for so long. All I can say is this; if it were not for Eddie Ramos, the first coup attempt at the Manila Hotel would have ended our democracy and I would probably be in jail now. So, we owe Eddie Ramos a great debt of gratitude. It is true that we were able to restore democracy; but it was he who helped me in nurturing this democracy.

When our vice presidential candidate was speaking a while ago, I thought to myself: What a pity. If only I had had a vice president like Lito Osmena, [applause] I would have had someone to help me and would not have had to suffer so much.

But that is over and done with. There is no point in regretting anything. Some ask me: Where was Eddie Ramos during martial law? It is true that we did not have Eddie Ramos during those times. However, while I was reading the Bible...[Aquino changes thought] perhaps you know the parable of the workers in the vineyard, where St. Matthew tells us how some were called during the first hour, the third hour, the sixth hour, the ninth hour and the eleventh hour. It must have been the Lord's will to reserve Eddie Ramos for the eleventh hour. [crowd cheers] If Eddie Ramos had not arrived at the eleventh hour, we still may not have our democracy. So, even though he was late, let us just accept him because it was simply necessary for him to arrive at the eleventh hour in order to restore this democracy. [applause]

Now with regard to our 24 senatorial candidates, many of you may well be saying: There goes Cory again endorsing another set of senators who will eventually turn against her. Will she ever learn her lesson?

The truth is, I have chosen people whom I have worked with and whose track records are known to me

Let me first introduce the two lady senators: Senator Nina Rasul and Senator Letty Shahani. These two senators have never turned me down when I called upon them for help. That is why I thank both of them.

My uncle, Congressman Francisco Sumulong. When I was younger, I had to put his hand on my forehead as a sign of respect. But ever since I became president, *please excuse me,* [applause] he has never called me just Cory. [applause]

We also have here Secretary Alfredo Bengzon of the Department of Health [applause], Secretary Bello of the Department of Justice [applause], Secretary Rueben Torres of the Department of Labor [applause], Secretary Guillermo Carague of the Department of Budget and Natural Resources [applause], Congressman Eduardo Pilapil [applause], SRA [Sugar Regulatory Administration] Chairman Arsenio Yulo [applause], Ambassador Jose Romero Jr. [applause], Secretary Buddy Gomez [applause], Mr. Sanchez Ali [applause], Mr. Jaime Cura [applause], Solicitor General Frank Chavez [applause], Board Member Conrado Malikad [applause], Undersecretary of National Defense Leonardo Quisumbing [applause], Mr. Jose Lopez [applause], Mr. Israel Bocobo [applause], Mr. Manuel Morato [applause], Mrs. Marieta (Venecia) Goco [applause], Mr. Aurelio Periquet of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce [applause], Mr. Adolfo Ascuna [applause], Congressman Adza [applause], Mayor Renato Reyes [applause], and Ramon R.J. Jacinto [applause]. We bring before you these candidates for the coming polls.

As in the past, we continue to be prohibited from campaigning so I can only present them before you.

My only desire is for us to help each other to ensure clean and honest elections.

I told you once, as a candidate, that I was willing to offer my life for the country. Today, I tell you the same thing. I am still prepared to offer my life for the Filipino people. [applause] [end recording]

Mitra, Fernan Formally File Candidacy

HK0702082692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan have formally filed their candidacy with the Commission on Elections. Mitra and Fernan have filed their candidacy as president and vice president, respectively, in the coming 11 May polls under the Struggle of Filipino Democrats [LDP]. Along with the two, the senatorial line-up of the LDP also filed their candidacies. In light of this, the LDP promised to intensify its campaign for the coming elections in the hope that they will not only win the presidential slot, but also the vast majority of the available national and local positions.

Political Aspirants Formally File Candidacies

HK0802041292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The 90-day campaign period for candidates running for the officies of president, vice president, and senator starts today. The Commission on Elections [Comelec] was busy accepting certificates of candidacies until midnight last night. Over 70 candidates for the presidency and 18 for the vice presidency have filed for candidacy. The Comelec reminded all candidates that political announcements on radios, televisions and newspapers are prohibited starting today. The Supreme Court has not decided on a petition seeking to stop Comelec from banning political advertisement. Yesterday, the Comelec issued a resolution which will serve as the guideline for the use of materials and propaganda by the candidates. Under the resolution, candidates are prohibited from giving away T-shirts, ballpoint pens, lighters, or sports paraphernalias bearing party logos or candidates' pictures. [passage omitted]

The presidential candidates who filed their certificates of candidacies yesterday were former Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago, former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, and Vice President Salvador Laurel. Four other presidential hopefuls who also filed their certificates of candidacies were Senator Jovito Salonga, former First Lady Imelda Marcos, Senator Joseph Estrada, and former Ambassador Eduardo Danding Cojuangco.

Among the vice presidential hopefuls who filed their candidacies were Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon of Iloilo City, Laurel's running mate; Edgar Maranan, Santiago's running mate; and former Zambales Governor Vicente Vic Magsaysay, Imelda Marcos' running mate.

Meanwhile, in the senatorial line-up, included in the Struggle of Filipino Democrats slate are Senators Neptali Gonzales, Agapito Butch Aquino, Ernesto Herrera, Ramon Revilla, Blas Ople, Alberto Romulo, Orlando Mercado, Gloria Macapagal, Tito Sotto, Rodolfo Biazon, Jose Concepcion and Teofisto Guingona. In the People's Power Party line up are Congressman Francisco Sumulong, former Presidential Spokesman Adolf Azcuna, Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, former Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, former Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, former Press Secretary Tomas Buddy Gomez III, and LTRCB [expansion unknown] Manuel Morato.

In the National Political Coalition headed by Eduardo Danding Cojuangco, the senatorial line up includes Vivian Hultman, Anna Dominique Coseteng, Katrina Santos, Elsa Payumo, Estellito Mendoza, former Assemblyman Francisco Tatad, Senator Ernesto Maceda, Jerry Barican, former Senator Arturo Tolentino, Felix Brawner, and Alexander Aguirre.

In the New Society Movement, the senators are Augusto Chiquito Pangan, Oliver Lozano, Ali Dimaporo, Alona Alegre, Raphael Recto, Rommel Corro, Salvador Panelo, Arturo Padua and Vicente Crisologo.

Rebels 'Have No Favored Presidential Candidate'

HK1002110092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] said it will not support any presidential candidate. This was stated by Father Edgar Dandan, head of the National Liberation and a member of the NDF. According to Father Dandan, the groups have no favored presidential candidate because none of them has the capability to carry out their agendas. However, Father Dandan said they will support some senatorial candidates who would match their preferences. He is referring to senatorial candidates who have a positive view about important issues.

Meanwhile, Comrade Hector of the Melito Glor Command has expressed dismay over the Commission on Elections' [Comelec] implementation of the gun ban. According to the rebel leader, the ban will only put at risk people who can legitimately carry guns. Comrade Hector said the implementation of the gun ban only serves as government propaganda. He warns that the gun ban poses a great risk to the coming election. The rebel leader also called for support to candidates whose primary goal is the interest of the people and whose heart is focused on the adoption of genuine land reform.

In related news, New People's Army [NPA] rebels have warned private armies in the Visayas to avoid sowing trouble in the coming election. The communist rebels outrightly said they will liquidate private armies and politicians who will conduct bribing activities regarding the election. In this connection, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte called on the NPA rebels not to harm politicians who may be out in the streets without bodyguards. Authorities have reported that NPA rebels in Davao City are active in their operations again, saying that an intense encounter between the NPA rebels and military occurred there last week.

Abadia Confirms Plan To Kidnap Politicians

HK0802021192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Communist rebels are planning to kidnap some election candidates before the 11 May polls. General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, confirmed this saying that based on an intelligence report he received, the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army is desperate to fight for the movement's ideology which is why it has shifted its strategy to bandit tactics. According to Abadia, the leftist movement is hoping that the citizenry will lose its confidence on the Armed Forces and the Philippine

National Police if it succeeds in sowing unrest, particularly during the election. Abadia stressed that the organization will have additional funds from its support of several politicians. However, Abadia asserted that the military and police force is prepared to foil any violent plan by the leftist or rightist rebels.

Thailand

Yen's Role in External Debt To Be Reduced

BK1002013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Feb 92 p 28

[Excerpt] The Thai Government plans to adjust the public's external debt portion by reducing the role of Japanese yen and in turn lowering the foreign-exchange risk.

Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) Director General Niphat Phukkanasut said 80 percent of the country's external debt was made up of an equal portion of Japanese yen and US dollars, leaving the balance to currencies such as French and Swiss francs.

Mr Niphat said the FPO would increase the US dollar portion by 10 percent to 50 percent of the country's external-debt basket and reduce the Japanese-yen portion from 40 percent to 30 percent.

"The Japanese-yen portion must be reduced to avoid a foreign- exchange risk," he said. [passage omitted]

Trade Ban on South Africa Lifted

BK1002013792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Feb 92 p 28

[Text] The Commerce Ministry has revoked a trade embargo against South Africa in line with a United Nations resolution.

The revocation came in two ministerial announcements signed by Deputy Commerce Minister Pridiyathon Thawakun recently.

The revocation means Thai importers and exporters no longer need to seek government permission before conducting trade with South Africa.

Thailand started the trade embargo in 1978 in accordance with the UN resolution to introduce economic sanctions against South Africa because of its adopted apartheid policy.

Navy Releases Australian Treasure-Hunting Ship

BK0902150592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The Navy has allowed free passage to the treasure-hunting vessel Australian Tide since this morning. The ship entered into Thailand's exclusive economic zone to take porcelain artifacts of the 12th century from sunken boats along the ancient trade route. It was intercepted and surrounded by the Naval fleet led by Navy Frigate Chao Phraya because its presence constituted a violation of international law. Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Surawut Maharom said that the vessel was allowed free passage after diplomatic negotiations with officials of the Australian Tide ended in success. They agreed to give back to Thailand about a thousand pieces of artifacts taken from the seabed.

[Begin recording] [Surawut] Last night our officials negotiated with officials of the boat in a diplomatic manner under instruction from the Foreign Ministry. They finally agreed with all our requirements. We have retrieved the salvaged ancient artefacts found on board. We transfered them into our ships. It took us several hours to complete the job. When all was completed this morning, we allowed the vessel free passage. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Burmese Troops Warned Over Bridge Construction

BK1002012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Feb 92 p A1

[Text] Thai Government troops yesterday threatened to use force against the Burmese to halt the construction of a bridge over the Moei River which forms the border between the two countries.

Two armoured vehicles and a contingent of Thai border patrol policemen were sent as reinforcement to the river bank here late yesterday morning.

Col Niphan Siphaibun, commander of the Thai border force, said the Burmese left the construction site yesterday afternoon after a warning from the Thai side.

Thai authorities said Burmese troops began building the bridge on Friday to move heavy equipment from a captured base of the Karen National Union (KNU), an ethnic insurgent group, at Yegyaw, in southeast Burma about 25 km north of the border town of Mae Sot, to launch an assault against another KNU camp at Kawmura.

Burmese forces overran Yegyaw last week as part of a month-old operation aimed at capturing the KNU headquarters at Manerplaw, about 145 km further north.

Thai officials said the Burmese yesterday were working towards the middle of the river which serves as the boundary.

Col Niphan said the Burmese claimed that they were building the bridge so that tractors being repaired on the Thai side could be brought back to Burma.

"But our warning to them is clear: If the construction continues, we will use force to halt it," he said.

Col Niphan said the Burmese told the Thai authorities that they intended to build the bridge into the Thai territory and ignored an earlier request to stop the construction.

Thai military sources have said more than 1,000 Burmese troops are preparing to attack Kawmura, located on the banks of the Burmese side of the [illegible]ei River.

In 1989 and 1990, Burmese troops attempted to seize Kawmura by crossing into Thailand to attack the heavily fortified camp from the rear, but both attacks wre repulsed.

Samakki Tham Deputy Leader on Party Program

BK0902013892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Samakki Tham Party wants to see about 20,000 million baht a year spent on improving roads in the provinces and to develop small-scale water wells in every tambon.

Rural development, particularly in the Northeast, remains the party's top priority over political development, STP deputy leader Dr Athit Urairat said last night during a special election television programme Yuthakan Luaktang '35 [Election Campaign '92].

Dr Athit said that as long as people across the country remain poor, the party's policy will focus on rural development.

"We have to use every effort to develop the countryside, the roads and highways. We need to set aside at least 20,000 million baht each year to build and improve provincial roads," he said.

Water resources in the Northeast and East are areas the party wants to develop, Dr Athit said, adding that every tambon and village should have water wells.

He said the tambon councils should be given two million baht each for the project, adding this comes out to only 10,000 million baht a year.

Equipment and materials should be provided by the government, he said.

While the country's industry and export sector remain crucial to the economy, agricultural development is a cornerstone of Samakki Tham's policy.

"In the past we have let agriculture go along its way, therefore it has not been efficient and investment is high. Farmers work just so that they can have a living.

"We need to reform our agricultural methods and develop an integrated system. This means we need to develop them so they can be competitive with those of other countries.

"We need to be able to guarantee to the farmer that the (new) method will be efficient, that costs will be low and that they will be able to compete.

"We need to bring in machines and technology as well as guarantee farm prices. The government needs to play an overseeing and supporting role, to see how farmers can have low investment and not let them fall into debt," Dr Athit said.

Instead of planting traditional crops such as rice, maize and tobacco, efforts should be made to develop the cattle industry, particularly in the Northeast, because of relatively higher returns.

Sammakki Tham believes that to improve the standard of living, more emphasis should be given to education which Dr Athit said still lags 20 years behind the system in Malaysia.

"Our thinking is narrow and not progressive. Education is the grassroots of development. Whether we are poor or rich is because of education.

"Therefore, we need more and speedy efforts in this area," he said.

Dr Athit said that the private sector should be allowed to participate in providing health care for the public, especially in remote areas.

"Anything that can be passed on to the private sector should be. Anything which the government has to shoulder should be done," he said.

Asked whether the party will place greater emphasis on the needs of rural residents over town and city folkin its water resources policy, Dr Athit said the party must consider the interests of the public first.

Asked how important is the party's so-called White Northeast policy and whether it was announced to compete with the Green Northeast Project of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, STP secretary-general Sqn Ldr Thiti Nakhonthap said:

"Before all this the Northeast was red there was only red soil and dust and the hearts of northeasterners were red from blood, because people in the red were split into two.

"We must accept that the Green Northeast has made the trees and leaves greener. There's more water. But northeasterners still have to leave their homes to find work and leave their loved ones.

The Northeast is suited for cattle-raising and if there are Brahman cattle bred in the region "how can the people of this region be poor?" He said.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said the party's White Northeast policy means the skies over the region "will also be filled with the smoke from factories."

Northeasterners will have work from the factories and this means they will not have to leave their families, he said.

Samakki Tham Softens Support for Suchinda

BK0802010192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The Samakkhi Tham Party appears to have softened its stand of supporting Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as the country's prime minister after the general election.

In an interview this week, Samakkhi Tham secretary-general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Nakhonthap conceded that the party was the first to say that Gen Suchinda was most suitable as the country's next premier.

"But the situation has changed," he said after a recording session on Thursday for a special election television series, entitled Yutthakarn Luanktang '35, produced by the Bangkok Bank and the Bangkok Post.

The series will form part of the Post's extensive election coverage. The programmes will be shown every Saturday and Sunday evening from 6.50 pm to 7.30 pm on Channel 3 from tonight until March 21.

The series involves leaders of the key political parties being questioned on their political and economic policies by panelists representing people from various sectors of Thai society.

The Samakkhi Tham Party will feature in tonight's opening programme of the series with panelists being Thammasat University agricultural expert Dr Choemsak Pinthong and Dr Pongpen Sakuntapai of Chulalongkon University's Political Science Faculty.

All programmes will be hosted and moderated by Post Editor Phaisan Sricharatchanya.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said political parties which will form the core of the next coalition government have the right to select for themselves who they feel is most suitable as prime minister.

He said economics and trade will be the most crucial issue facing the new coalition government which needs to be headed by a person who will attract foreign investment.

"Is Gen Suchinda suited? We cannot say," Sqd Ldr Thiti said.

Asked to comment on the view of Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon, who said he did not want Gen Suchinda to be the next premier because he would face the same fate as past Army chiefs Sqn Ldr Thaiti said there was some truth in this reasoning.

"But everything depends on time," he said without elaborating.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said support from "outside" for a particular person to be prime minister is not as important as the views of the parties who will form the next government.

The next government will have to boost investor confidence. He conceded that after the February 23 the Thai economy had not progressed as expected.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said his comments did not mean Gen Suchinda could not become prime minister. Gen Suchinda is still a potential candidate if he can prove himself to be capable in economics and business, such as Dr Taksin Shinawatra, a former police officer-turned-businessman.

During the television session, Sqn Ldr Thiti, who was accompanied by party deputy leader Athit Urairat, said the key issue as to whether Samakkhi Tham joins other parties in forming the coalition will be party policies rather than who the other parties support as premier.

Former Governor Claims Candidates Buy Votes

BK0402012092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Phayao—A former governor of this northern province, Thongkham Khiantha, claims some general election candidates have promised to buy paddy or other farm products in exchange for votes.

Mr Thongkham, who will stand for the Samakkhi Tham Party, said yesterday that votes have been sold by farmers in return for promises that their produce will eventually be bought by certain candidates.

Farmers usually mortgage their expected paddy output with middlemen and millers before the planting season, with a guarantee that any debt can be paid in farm produce. The practice is widely known as "Tok Khao."

But this time, candidates are involved, said Mr Thongkham, who resigned as governor of Phayao to stand for election.

"The candidates who do the Tok Khao will not demand paddy but votes from farmers," Mr Thongkham said. By bartering with their votes, farmers will not have to pay any interest.

The paddy harvest season has begun in the North and will be completed in March or April.

Mr Thongkham believes candidates already control a large volume of farm products, adding he worked for the government for many years and in many towns but had never before heard of this way to buy votes.

He said candidates spent a lot of money to muster votes in the past and he knows this practice will continue.

He also warned about corrupt officials being bought at poll stations.

When he was deputy governor in Mae Hong Son, he was surprised that 100 per cent voter turnouts were recorded at some booths, especially those in remote villages.

The votes went almost exclusively to particular candidates in the 1988 election.

"I felt such voting was impossible. And even though I believed there was malpractice, I could do nothing because of a lack of evidence," he said.

Running for Parliament for the first time, Mr Thongkham said he hopes the election watchdog committee of non-governmental organisations can be effective in preventing vote-buying.

Mr Thongkham wants the committee to be most alert to money dumping—especially several days before polling day.

"Candidates who feel they are behind in the poll will always bring money into the villages to pay community leaders during that crucial period," he said.

Phayao is a single constitutency province of three MPs.

The Ruam Thai Party, under the leadership of Narong Wongwan, won two of the seats in the last election.

Mr Narong is now leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party.

The third seat went to a Chat Thai member, Mrs Puanglek Bunchiang, who is expected to stand again under the same banner.

Mr Thongkham, originally from the province, said he is confident he will win a seat without having to buy votes.

Ex-Minister Declared To Have Unusual Wealth

BK0502130592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] General Sit Chirarot, chairman of the Assets Probing Committee, announced today that his committee, after thorough checks and study of evidence relating to the assets of Police General Praman Adireksan, have concluded that, while Praman held the interior minister and industry minister posts, he amassed unusual wealth or assets through acceptance of checks, gift checks, and cash from businessmen in the lumber, liquor, sugar, and cement circles. He deposited them in commercial banks and financial companies in several accounts under his own name and the names of his wife and son; these totaled over 139.7 million baht, being broken down as follows: three commercial bank accounts totaling 8.1 million baht, 14 promisory notes worth 81.3 million baht, seven plots of land worth 34.5 million baht, and redeemable rights belonging to his wife and son worth 15.8 million baht. His assets and those of his wife and son, which were frozen in excess of the above mentioned amount, will be released.

Vietnam

Commentary Views Visit by U.S. Envoy Vessey

BK0702113792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President's special envoy, General John Vessey, has just concluded his trip to Vietnam. In this connection, the Voice of Vietnam has this to say:

General John Vessey visited Vietnam from 30 January to 1 February 1992. According to the agreement between the two governments of Vietnam and the United States, he was accompanied by a number of U.S. press heads and diplomats. General John Vessey and his entourage called on Vietnamese Defense Minister General Doan Khue and had talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

The two sides issued a joint statement declaring that they had exchanged views on humanitarian issues concerning both Vietnam and the United States and on a number of varied issues of mutual concerns. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of frankness and in a constructive spirit.

The two sides agreed to strengthen existing measures designed to acquire and verify information concerning American missing in action and to continue cooperation to resolve all pending issues. The two sides also reviewed the implementation of an agreement reached by the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Manh Cam, and General John Vessey in October 1991, and the results of the 15th joint drive to search for information on American missing in action in Vietnam.

They also reviewed progress toward solving other humanitarian questions. They reviewed the results of investigation of 119 discrepancy cases to which the U.S. and Vietnam have given priority since 1988 and agreed to hold top-level meetings to discuss ways to accelerate resolution of these cases and to plan operation for the next 12 to 24 months.

General John Vessey reviewed for the Vietnamese, U.S. efforts to address Vietnam's humanitarian needs. In this connection, he informed the Vietnamese Government that the U.S. would provide for the first time disaster assistance to aid victims of the recent typhoon in Central Vietnam. The Vietnamese side appreciated these efforts and requested that the U.S. side increase its contributions in this area.

They agreed to hold in Hanoi a meeting of representatives of the two governments by the end of February 1992 to further evaluate the U.S. humanitarian program and Vietnam's humanitarian needs.

The two sides also reiterated the desire of their respective governments for early normalization of relations between the two countries. General John Vessey and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam agreed to meet again to assess progress following next month's top-level meeting at a date to be determined.

Observers said that the recent trip to Vietnam by General John Vessey and his delegation opened new prospect for normalizing bilateral relations.

Vietnamese Party General Secretary Do Muoi has stated in the past that Vietnam has always shown its goodwill toward the U.S. In recent years, Vietnam has cooperated with the U.S. to solve humanitarian questions left behind by the war waged by the U.S. in South Vietnam. Vietnam has already handed over nearly 500 sets of remains of Americans missing in action in Vietnam and has worked on other humanitarian issues.

For its part, the U.S. has offered Vietnam 1 million U.S. dollars to make artificial limbs and has lifted both the bans on Vietnam's tourism by the Americans and the 25-mile limit on movement of Vietnamese diplomats in New York.

However, there are still numerous obstacles to friendly relations between the U.S. and Vietnam imposed by the U.S, the biggest of these concerns the MIA.

Public opinion in both Vietnam and the U.S. supports the lifting of the U.S. embargo against Vietnam and the normalization of U.S. relations with Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and of peace, cooperation, and development throughout the world.

Cross-Border Trade With PRC 'Faring Well'

BK0802035092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Border trade between Vietnam and China has been faring well over the past two years. The cross-border trade includes exchange of food under contracts, shipping under contracts and shipping services for exported goods from Hong Kong via the southern provinces of China to Vietnam.

Vietnam sells to China chicken, cat fish, frogs, dried longan, lotus seeds, dried lychees and sea crabs. In return, Vietnam buys from China steel, chemicals, techical equipment, stationery and furniture.

Nguyen Khanh Receives Philippine Minister

BK0702135792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] On Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year Day, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh received and had cordial talks with Professor Dr. Carino, president of the Southeast Asia Education Council and Philippine minister of education, culture, and sports on 5 February afternoon at the Presidential Palace.

Attending the reception were Professor Dr. Pham Minh Hac, first deputy minister of education and training, and representatives from the Office of the Council of Ministers. The Philippine ambassador was also on hand at the reception.

Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh heartily welcomed the Vietnam visit on Vietnam's New Year Day by the president of the Southeast Asia Education Council and his entourage. He also briefed the president on the results achieved by Vietnam in its renovation cause.

The vice chairman stressed that the Vietnamese party and government are particularly concerned with cultural and educational development. Vietnam would like to join the Southeast Asia Education Council and it is ready to cooperate with all countries, especially regional countries, on the basis of equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, and mutual benefits. Vietnam hopes that it will receive active assistance from the organization.

Dr. Carino thanked Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training for their warm reception over the previous few days. He extended his respects to the Vietnamese people and said that the Southeast Asia Education Council would hold a meeting next week to issue a decision officially recognizing Vietnam as a member of the council. He also promised that during his official term with the council, he would create all favorable conditions to strengthen relations with Vietnam and help Vietnam to develop its education cause.

Chairman Sees Directors of Foreign Oil Companies

BK0902151392 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 9—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday directors of oil and gas companies of Britain, Canada, Holland, India, Malaysia, Australia and Belgium, which are operating in Vietnam on the occasion of the Lunar New Year's Day.

Mr. Thomas Duerst, director of the Sepv Company of Holland, expressed his gratitude toward the government and concerned offices of Vietnam for their assistance in prospection activities and affirmed the foreign copanies' determination to continue their operation in Vietnam till oil is found, which benefits not only the companies but also the socioeconomic development in Vietnam.

Chaiman Vo Van Kiet welcomed the foreign oil and gas companies' coming to Vietnam for oil exploration and expressed his wish that the cooperation between Vietnam and the companies would be promoted in the coming period. He also affirmed that the Vietnamese Government and concerned offices would create favorable conditions for the companies to conduct their activities.

Vietnamese, Lao Provinces Cooperate in Agriculture

BK0702084192 Hanoi VNA in English 0657 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 7—Vietnam's northern province of Hai Hung has in recent years cooperated with Laos' prefecture of Vientiane in agricultural development. In 1989 Hai Hung helped Vientiane build a 22-hectare plant research centre in Thoulakhom district. It also sent two agriculturists to help their Lao colleagues (?in) experimentally planting high-yield rice strains, pepper, litchi and some other fruit trees.

In addition, Hai Hung and Vientiane cooperated in building a pig and fish farm. In 1990 the farm was provided with 44 pigs of a Vietnamese high-yield strain. Last year the pig herd increased to nearly 400. This year the farm plans to provide the local population with 650 pigs of this breed. There are seven fish ponds which have been provided with 5 million fry by Hai Hung over the last two years. Two sister provinces have agreed to cooperate in melon growing, sericulture and consumer goods production.

Vo Van Kiet Pays Tet Visit to Ba Ria-Vung Tau

BK0902133192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Summary] "From 2-4 February, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet visited and extended his Tet greetings to cadres and office and manual workers of the VIETSO Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise as well as to the Ba Ria-Vung Tau provincial party organization and people."

On the morning of 2 February, Chairman Vo Van Kiet was warmly welcomed by war oil and gas workers of the Cuu Long-Con Dao oil platform, Stationary Oil Rig No. 2, and the Oil and Gas Technological Support Service Center No. 2 when he visited and presented his Tet greetings to them and toured oil and gas production facilities.

"Accompanying Chairman Vo Van Kiet were Comrade Nguyen Minh, chairman of the Ba Ria-Vung Tau provincial people's committee, and Comrade Le Thanh Sang, director general of the joint enterprise."

Speaking on this occasion, Chairman Vo Van Kiet cordially inquired about the well-being, working conditions, recreational activities, and Tet preparations of cadres and office and manual workers of the platform. He was very impressed because the VIETSO oil and gas joint enterprise workers have heightened the sense of discipline and have constantly increased oil and gas production output despite many difficulties in weather conditions, equipment, and technology.

"On behalf of the party Central Committee and the government, the chairman warmly commended the joint enterprise and the Vietnam oil and gas sector for their outstanding achievements. In 1991, developing their important economic role, they have made many efforts to overcome difficulties and have overfulfilled oil and gas exploitation target, thus greatly contributing to the cause of national development."

"Regarding the tasks for 1992, Chairman Vo Van Kiet stressed: The renovation undertaking initiated and guided by our party is developing and continues to score new achievements. At present, besides favorable conditions, our country is facing many difficulties. All individuals and organizations should devote their manpower and material resources to making themselves and the nation rich."

"As a concrete objective, he entrusted the joint enterprise with the task of tapping from 5-5.5 million tonnes of oil in 1992. He called on everyone to actively apply advanced technological innovations in order to increase oil output; prevent the loss of materials; effectively protect oil well and sea areas; fulfill obligations to the state; heighten vigilance; guard against the enemy's acts of sabotage; and oppose all indications of negativism, corruption, and secret deals in production and business operations, especially in the signing of selling and buying agreements, building contracts, and so forth."

He also stressed the need for the joint enterprise to reorganize the contingent of engineers, technicians, and professional cadres; streamline the organization of personnel not engaging directly in production; and reduce production cost.

He also reminded the joint enterprise of the need to care for the material and spiritual life as well as the working conditions of workers, especially those working at the various oil rigs on the high seas.

On 3 February, Chairman Vo Van Kiet attended a Tet get-together at the Vietnam Oil and Gas Support Services Corporation before visiting and presenting his Tet greetings to Mr. Phung Dinh Thuc and his family. Mr. Thuc, deputy director of the Exploitation Enterprise under the VIETSO Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise, was among a group of outstanding cadres who led the enterprise in the movement to fulfill the 1991 tasks.

"Chairman Vo Van Kiet then had a working session with the Ba Ria-Vung Tau provincial party committee and people's committee standing bodies. He also toured the Vung Tau Port and a tourist resort under the management of the Vung Tau Tourist and Support Service Corporation.

"During his working session with the local leading officials, Chairman Vo Van Kiet pointed out the important role of Ba Ria-Vung Tau as the country's largest oil and gas industrial center and also a province having great potential in sea economy, maritime operations, tourist support services, and external economic relations. Like Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, and Vung Tau, the province has many conditions for attracting foreign investment capital."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet extended his Tet greetings to the Ba Ria-Vung Tau provincial party organization and people and expressed his hope that 1992 would mark an important turning point in the socioeconomic life of the province.

Further on Do Muoi Speech at Publication Meeting

BK0702102792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Last part of address by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at 21-24 January Hanoi National Press and Publication Work Conference—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades, the press and publications are the assault force for the ideological and cultural front. The press—comprising newspapers, journals, and photo magazines—is the most rapid and effective means of presenting news and information. The press can regularly get in touch with the people, listen to their problems, and contribute to resolving issues in daily life. The press must consistently oppose all wicked schemes and tactics of the hostile forces, struggle against erroneous ideological concepts, and contribute to promoting the people's revolutionary action movement. President Ho Chi Minh said: Journalists are revolutionary combatants, pens and papers are their effective weapons. As a result, journalists should be proud of their tasks—heavy and difficult tasks—which are entrusted by the party and people.

To be worthy of this honor and to fulfill their lofty tasks, the contingent of journalists and writers should firmly maintain their patriotism, strictly observe discipline, promote a high sense of responsibility, and be active in their creative labor to effectively contribute to the revolutionary undertaking.

Genuine journalists and writers must understand that freedom of the press is granted in a lofty sense aimed at serving the interests of the fatherland and the people as well as of mankind and social progress. Publishing a bad article or a bad book aimed at undermining morals and good concepts of the people, to me, is not the intention of responsible journalists and writers. Under the party leadership and state management, the press and publishing houses must carry out their activities in accordance with good principles and objectives. They must firmly grasp the party lines and state law, observe realities, accurately present issues in daily life, commend good deeds, contribute to overcoming shortcomings, and consistently draw on experiences to promote social progress.

The right to information is one of the fundamental rights of citizens. The draft amendments to the Constitution, which are being discussed by the people, have asserted the citizens' right to information. However, there are many sources of information; among them, the press and publications are overt, effective, and far-reaching sources of information. If a correct line is implemented by the press, the result will be very good; if otherwise, it will adversely affect the political, socioeconomic, and cultural situation of the nation. As a result, in presenting news and information, we must adhere to the objectives of firmly maintaining political stability, consistently carrying out the renovation undertaking, and step by step building a new man and a new lifestyle. It is necessary to say that we must formulate orientations for the press to ensure the people's right to enjoy good and healthy culture. Our ideological work must be aimed at mobilizing the entire party, people, and the armed forces to effectively carry out the nation's political task. As an assult force for the ideological front, the press must regard this work as one of its main objectives. In the present situation, I would like to suggest some points as follows:

1. Newspapers and books must contribute to upholding the revolutionary and scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought and treat them as guiding concepts in the spiritual life of society. Each newspaper and publishing house has different ways of carrying out work to meet the requirements of their readers; it is necessary for them, however, to adhere to these objectives. They must give priority to topics related to domestic affairs and measures to protect and develop the national culture and other fine traditions, while striving to introduce the essence of mankind's civilization and useful experiences of countries in the world for application to Vietnamese society. While introducing experiences of foreign countries, the press must present them in a correct and accurate fashion, stressing both the good and the bad sides. In the present complicated development of the situation, the press must actively, positively, and promptly participate in the struggle to defend national independence and sovereignty, firmly maintain political stability, and continue to triumphantly implement the renovation undertaking of the nation.

2. The press is an important tool in the process of democratizing social life. It is necessary to make clear that the democracy we are building is the socialist democracy in which the interests of the people are inseparable from the citizens' obligations. Democracy must proceed along with discipline and the law. While striving to eliminate oppression against the people, we must oppose ultra-democracy or anarchy. The press must introduce good experiences of provinces and establishments, especially localities that can firmly protect the people's right to democracy while maintaining social discipline and order.

3. To implement the objectives of releasing all production forces, developing the multisectoral commodity economy, promoting the market economy in accordance with the state plan and orientations, and expanding international trade relations, the press must strive to introduce and assert all the positive sides of the market economy and international trade relations, while pointing out the necessity to struggle against their negative sides such as smuggling, counterfeiting, tax evasion,

and circulation of publications carrying decadent culture. The press must also strive to struggle and propose measures to preserve and develop the national morals and other fine traditions, motivate the people to uphold patriotism and the spirit of self-reliance as well as the habit to work hard and practice thrift to build the country, thereby contributing to strengthening the all-people unity to overcome all difficulties and ordeals to vigorously advance further.

4. It is necessary to achieve a harmonious combination between citing the good things and criticizing the bad things. In the renovation process, there have existed many new factors to be promptly cited. Lessons of experience should be drawn for widespread dissemination. Meanwhile, the press and publication sector is duty-bound to struggle to criticize bad habits as well as evil and debasing things, thus contributing to make our society more wholesome.

As an open source of information, the press has built in a great strength capable of creating public opinion in support of our struggle. For this very reason press workers should uphold their responsibility before society by disseminating information in a faithful, accurate, prudent, and fair-minded manner.

Correct cooperation between press organs and law enforcement agencies will make the antinegativism struggle more successful, trying to ensure the accuracy of every bit of information released and the possibility of putting on trial every criminal case brought to light.

5. Dissemination of information abroad should correctly reflect the foreign policy of our party and state and their desire to befriend all countries in the world on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Our party and state support those movements and forces struggling for peace, independence, democracy, and social progress. The present era is the era of the information boom. The world information order is, however, not yet equal. We are duty-bound to keep the people in the country informed of those events now taking place in the world, but we should not allow this to affect our country's foreign policies.

It is necessary to broaden our international relations in terms of information with various international and regional news agencies and press organs; to steel the people's determination to defend national independence and persist on the socialist path; to improve the people's knowledge and ethics, and the purely Vietnamese emotion; to promote national and international unity; and to create a wholesome social public opinion to maintain political stability and achieve socioeconomic stability and development.

Continuing the renovation undertaking, tiding the country over in the present crisis, and making the people prosperous and the country powerful are the most effective, important yardsticks of the activities of the press and publication sector throughout the country as well as in each locality and sector.

To achieve the above aims, we should constantly improve the party's leadership abilities and the state's managerial skills as well as the qualities and abilities of press and publication workers.

Directing and managing press and publication activities constitutes a political responsibility of various party committee echelons, the administration, and responsible organs. These organizations should take responsibility for the contents of all printed matter of those press and publication organs within their leadership and management responsibility. They should improve their knowledge about this field of activity to fulfill their leadership and management functions. It is necessary to come up with policies, create favorable environment, and increase personnel to improve the qualities and efficiency of press and publication activities in our country, from the central level down to various sectors and echelons.

The contingent of our country's press and publication workers is fairly large. The majority of these workers are energetic and have been properly trained. A number of them have good expertise. Party committee echelons, the administration, and responsible organs should constantly care for and foster the contingent of journalists, writers, and printing and publication workers. They should keep one another periodically informed of the situation and should together discuss and deal with newly-arising issues, trying to create conditions for journalists and writers to blend themselves with the people's working life and for the press, publication, and printing sector to operate in a copious fashion yet according to the law and in the right direction.

It is necessary to guarantee that books and publications can reach the hands of readers with appropriate attention given to remote areas.

Press and publication activities should be subject to profit-and-loss accounting if we are constantly to improve product qualities and reduce production costs. And if profitable, it is necessary to better the working conditions and the welfare of journalists and writers. We should, however, not be preoccupied merely with profits as this will lead to competition to churn out scandalous news or useless and harmful books and press articles that may create serious and long-term social consequences, particularly for the younger generation.

While strongly encouraging the turning out of impressive works of high quality, our party and state treasure those creative talents. These works and their authors should be presented with worthy awards. As for those newspapers and publications with good contents and with a high demand for widespread publication, the state should help them out with a subsidy policy. It should devise a preferential policy toward those books and newspapers reserved for children and ethnic minority compatriots.

To ensure that books and newspapers are disseminated widely and promptly to everyone, it is necessary to consolidate and develop the post office network from the central down to the grass-roots levels, including those systems under the control of the party, the state, and various mass organizations.

The press and publication sector should meet the demands and taste of the people of various strata. It should, however, oppose the tendency to pursue the debasing taste of certain people.

The press and publication system should be rearranged to suit the management skills and the personnel conditions of each echelon and each sector. To ensure qualities and develop realistic results, we should avoid a situation where, due to poor management skills and personnel's lack of expertise, there is a flood of malevolent and harmful printed matters. It is necessary to resolutely and promptly overcome the state of disorder and confusion in the area of press and publications.

The above are just reminders of the guidelines for our country's press and publication activities so you, comrades, can consult when ascertaining your duties in the period ahead.

On the occasion of the New Year, I would like to cordially wish you—leaders of the press and publication sector, including editors-in-chief and managing directors of various newspapers and publishing and printing houses, and officials in charge of publishing organs and through you to all the bulk reporters, correspondents, coordinators, and those working on printing and publishing—a New Year full of good health with ever greater creativity if you are to bring the press and publication undertaking to constant play and to have more good and useful works capable of improving the people's knowledge, maintaining and developing our national identity, meeting the people's cultural and spiritual needs, effectively serving the renovation undertaking, and successfully fulfilling the political task brought forth by the seventh national party congress.

Do Muoi Speech at Tuyen Quang Congress, Part 1

BK0802154192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Jan 92

["First part" of speech by Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Do Muoi at the 11th second-round party organization congress of Tuyen Quang Province from 20-23 January 1992—read by announcer; exact date, place not given]

[Text] I am very glad to attend the second-round party organization congress of Tuyen Quang Province and to revisit a former revolutionary base of our country that came into existence in the pre-Uprising period and lasted until the years of the resistance against French colonialism.

On this occasion, I would like to extend to you—party cadres and members, all compatriots of various fraternal ethnic groups, and members of the Armed Forces—best regards from the party Central Committee.

The party Central Committee Secretariat has reported on preparations for this congress and has given considerable advice to the provincial party committee. You, comrades, have heeded the Secretariat's advice and have rectified a report to be presented by you before the congress. Attached to this report were a number of important documents such as those on the objectives and steps to be taken in agricultural and forestry production, a regional program for road reconstruction and upgrading, major objectives and steps to be taken in education and training, and a program to carry out the 1992-95 health objectives.

All these show that your preparations for the congress were very scrupulous and reflected a high sense of responsibility of the party organization before the people, given your efforts to set forth and decide on concrete and practical programs and actions.

Basically, I favor all those matters which you, comrades, have presented. Meanwhile, I would like to further bring up a number of issues for you to use as a reference during your discussions at the congress and to supplement a program for action which will be implemented by the party organization after this congress.

Dear comrades: During the course of our people's long struggle for national independence and national construction and defense full of sacrifices and hardships, Tuyen Quang served as a strategic position and an impregnable base area thanks to the close unity of its 22 fraternal ethnic groups. Here, many important events of our country's revolution took place. Tuyen Quang is noted for its Tan Trao historical site—the birthplace of the first revolutionary administration in our country.

Tan Trao was one of the safe base areas of the center in the Viet Bac Region where the party Central Committee and the government, with esteemed Uncle Ho as their head, directed the heroic protracted war of resistance that led to the famous victorious Dien Bien Phu campaign.

During the resistance for national defense, Tuyen Quang, together with Ha Giang, made great contributions in manpower and property and scored numerous great victories, thus duly catering to the glorious victories of our nation.

From the Sixth National Party Congress—and faced with a difficult national situation and a complex, changing world—the party organization, the army, and the multiethnic people of Ha Tuyen have continued to develop their fine traditions by striving to maintain sociopolitical stability and strengthen solidarity within the community of fraternal multiethnic people. They have joined the people nationwide enthusiastically carrying out the renovation undertaking and scoring many initial, very important successes. For instance, they have basically overcome the state of nomadism and resolved the problem of food supply within their province. They have promoted multisectoral economic development and harnessed the province's latent potential in forest land, manpower, and traditional professions. The people's lives, from certain aspects and in certain areas, have improved. Compatriots of various ethnic groups, particularly those belonging to the Tay and Dao ethnic groups, have started learning how to produce commodities and engage in business to enrich themselves. Educational, health, and cultural activities have further developed.

Ha Tuyen is one those localities noted for satisfactorily carrying out a decision on redivision of the province's territories, for it has been able to ensure solidarity and maintain all normal activities. Within a short period of time following the redivision of the province's territories, Tuyen Quang has been able to stabilize itself organizationally, continue to carry out agricultural and forestry development, repair and upgrade a number of its roads, and increase its budgetary revenue.

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I have warmly cited those achievements scored by the party organization, the army, and the multiethnic compatriots of Tuyen Quang.

Dear comrades, to develop those achievements gained and to satisfactorily carry out the the resolution of the Seventh Party Congress, this time the provincial party organization congress should correctly ascertain the orientations, tasks, and a program of action for the years to come. This is to motivate the army and the multiethnic people to resolutely and unfailingly effect a drastic change in all respects, first of all in the socioeconomic domain, in order to create steady momentum for development in the ensuing years.

In order to determine the province's orientations and tasks in a correct and appropriate fashion, we should be thoroughly aware of the strengths of Tuyen Quang, namely its persistent revolutionary tradition, the close unity among its community of fraternal mutiethnic people, its abundant workforce, and its expertise in production, particularly in forestry.

The sociopolitical situation in the province is, in general, stable. The province's arable land area is still large with an average of 0.5 hectare per person, much higher than that in many southern provinces. Compared with other mountain provinces, its infrastructure is fairly good. Its road and river traffic is convenient and the national power grid has extended over half the districts in the province.

The province's potential in hydroelectric power, especially power generated by small-scale hydroelectric power projects, and in industrial development, including centrally-run industries, especially those industries that process agricultural and forestry products and mineral ores in the province, is fairly abundant.

The province is capable of steadily and smoothly maintaining long-term cooperation among these industries in order to promote increased production and provide raw materials for centrally-run industries, especially mineral ores and other raw materials for paper and tea factories. The province also has great potential for broadening the production of raw materials for other industries.

Alongside these fundamental advantages and strengths, you, comrades, should understand the constraints and weaknesses that need to be strongly overcome. For instance, the province's economic growth is slow and its economic management is still poor and characterized by self sufficiency. Crop output is still low and there is a failure to develop the strengths of agriculture and forestry. The timber and bamboo output of Tuyen Quang now meets only 15 percent of the Bai Bang paper mill's requirements for raw materials.

Not much has been exploited from its advantages in industrial crops and animal husbandry. The area of fallow land and bare hills is still large while industrial output remains very poor, accounting for only 14 percent of the province's gross social product. The province's average per-capita gross social product and income are still low, given the average level of the entire country.

Road traffic is still stagnant and unable to satisfactorily cater to spurring commodity production.

The province's infrastructure continues to represent a big obstacle as it does not yet meet requirements for promoting production and business and the people's welfare. Budgetary revenue can guarantee merely 25-30 percent of the needs for normal expenditures. The lives of the people—especially of those ethnic compatriots in the inaccessible and remote areas and revolutionary base areas—and retired cadres are still beset with numerous difficulties.

State management is less effective, public order and discipline are not firmly maintained, and social vices and other negative phenomena are still prevalent.

The party organzation's leadership, particularly its guidance in shifting the economy to the market system, is still confused. The knowledge of party cadres and members has yet to be brought up to the level required by the situation for a new managerial mechanism.

The militancy of a segment of cadres has waned while a number of party cadres and members have become degenerate and deviant, thus adversely effecting the people's confidence in them.

Judging from the above-mentioned strengths and weaknesses, it is necessary to clearly determine the course of struggle to be followed by the party organization and the multiethnic people of Tuyen Quang during the years to come. This consists of developing the revolutionary traditions and those achievements already gained, continuing to preserve political stability, maintaining public order and security, consolidating national defense, creating favorable conditions for stepping up economic development in the direction of shifting from a self-sufficient economy to a commodity-based multisectoral economy that operates according to the market system under state control; actively applying scientific and technological findings in order to improve economic results; increasing the economic growth rate, gross social product, and national revenue in order to better the lives of the multiethnic compatriots; and satisfactorily resolving the relationship between accumulation and consumption if we are to promptly increase the source of capital accumulation and fixed assets in order to achieve socioeconomic development.

It is necessary to actively struggle to advance toward ensuring at an early date that the province's budget is self sufficient and is capable of making some contributions to the central government. This is one of the major objectives the provincial party organization congress should discuss, and for which it should come up with concrete plans and programs for implementation in the years to come.

On the basis of promoting economic development and concentrating on solving those urgent social problems, we should improve the intellectual standard of our compatriots and their health, and gradually better their material, cultural, and spiritual life. These are realistic activities that must be carried out in the years to come if we are to implement the resolution of the seventh party congress as well as the resolution of the province's 11th party organization congress.

Following the aforementioned orientations, Tuyen Quang Province should determine its major targets, namely to exploit all its capabilities and strengths in terms of grain, secondary food crops, forests, industrial crops, livestock and poultry raising. It should quickly develop industries to process forest, agricultural, and other raised products; tap raw materials for industry, develop the traditional handicrafts of ethnic minority people, redistribute labor among various localities, trades and jobs; closely combine the use of labor with the use of land and other natural resources, optimally use fallow land and bare hills in order to increase social products, significantly improve national defense and security, protect the ecological environment, settle the farming and life of nomads, create more jobs, increase the people's income, enrich families, and help the province and the country as a whole become prosperous.

The province should step up the production of goods, expand consumer markets in the province, the country, and abroad; quickly apply scientific and technological innovations to production in order to achieve high productivity and quality goods at low prices; enhance the competitiveness of goods in domestic and world markets, especially those special traditional goods of the province, such as timber, tea, oranges, and livestock. The province will continue to build its socioeconomic infrastructure, first of all electricity, water conservancy, transportation, information, and communication; establish a city network based on a suitable plan, and organize markets in both urban and rural areas. Every production unit should develop its manufacture of goods to meet the people's essential demands. The province should strive to reduce the number of poor households, basically resolve the problem of food shortages in pre-harvest periods, satisfactorily solve the educational problem to ensure that all children of school age can go to school, universalize the level one school, eliminate illiteracy among youths and cadres in villages, train technical workers and management, public health and educational cadres for villages; control malaria, stamp out goiter, and consolidate and stabilize the primary health care network for the people, especially tribal people, in order to prevent epidemics.

Attention should be paid to the cultural life of ethnic minority people of all nationalities by providing books and newspapers to them, relaying radio and television broadcasts, and increasing media to broadly disseminate the positions and policies of the party and state and the knowledge about and experience in good business. The healthy and attractive characteristics of national culture should be brought into play to wipe out social evils and superstitious customs and mores.

With a view to mobilizing to a large extent the province's potential in terms of land and labor to improve the people's living conditions and vigorously promote the economy of commodities, we should encourage various economic sectors to develop their production and business. The state economy plays a leading role in the socioeconomic development of midland and mountainous regions. Wherever there are many state-run factories, workers there can have many job opportunities, ranging from the production of raw materials for factories and the development of transportation to the providing of grain and other food products and various services to industry. Wherever industry, communications, and trade have developed, the socioeconomic situation there will quickly develop. For example, Bai Bang paper mill, which has engaged in joint operations with our province's agriculture and forestry over the past few years, has considerably helped boost agricultural and forestry production, created many jobs, and raised the intellectual standards of people in surrounding areas.

So stated, in order to develop agriculture and forestry even more vigorously, we should attentively expand our industrial and trade installations, especially the central ones. These installations must sign contracts directly with cooperatives and peasants, and satisfactorily perform the services of extending of credit, technical support, supplying material, and seeking domestic and overseas markets in order to be able to orient production and sell products. Contracts must be based on equality in terms of benefits and duties, so that the people can feel at ease to develop production. Prices must be fairly set and arbitrary grading and pricing must be opposed to ensure the legitimate interests of the people. Only on this basis can the people as producers of raw materials and factories as processors of raw materials into products achieve steady and lasting results. This is also a practical way to strengthen the equal alliance among the people of various nationalities, between peasants and workers, between industry and agriculture, and between cities and rural areas in a lasting manner from both economic and political standpoints, and to encourage one another to develop in the interests of all sides and of the country as a whole.

Vo Nguyen Giap Tours Ornamental Plant Exhibition

BK0502150492 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] The first ornamental plant and pet exhibition was opened at the Ho Chi Minh Museum in the capital city of Hanoi on the afternoon of 28 January.

Comrade General Vo Nguyen Giap and Comrade Pham Van Kiet, vice chairman and secretary general of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and president of the Vietnam Ornamental Plant and Pet Association, toured the exhibition.

Also attending the exhibition were many foreign guests and representatives of the various sectors and members of the Vietnam Ornamental Plant and Pet Association.

The objective of the exhibition, which was jointly organized on the occasion of the Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year by the Vietnam Ornamental Plant and Pet Association, the Vietnam Women Union, and the Ho Chi Minh Museum, is to contribute to developing the movement to rally the entire people around Uncle Ho and to promoting the awareness of the need to preserve and develop national cultural values.

The exhibition will provide Vietnamese at home, overseas Vietnamese returning to visit the fatherland, and foreign guests touring the capital city of Hanoi on the occasion of Tet of the opportunity to enjoy the fine traits of our country's ancient cultural heritage in the field of ornamental plants and pets, thus realizing more clearly our country's great potential in that domain.

On show were a whole variety of rare flowers, ornamental plants, rare birds, ornamental fish, and selected fine art articles. Parallel sentences for Tet and poems written in demotic script according to folk-art are available on the spot for those wishing to get them on the occasion of the traditional Tet festival.

On this occasion, the Vietnam Women Union also organizes many fresh flower arrangement demonstrations.

Petro Vietnam To Seek More Foreign Investment

BK0702082192 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.6—According to the Vietnam oil and gas corporation (Petro Vietnam), many foreign companies have completed their 1991 programmes which are also the first-phase programmes for oil prospection in Vietnam.

In 1991, two more foreign companies were granted concession to survey for oil and gas on the Vietnamese continental shelf, bringing to 10 the number of foreign companies engaged in this job, besides, 20 other foreign companies have arrived in Vietnam to study possibilities of cooperation in oil prospection and exploitation in the southern as well as northern continental shelves and also inland in the Red River delta.

In 1992, Petro Vietnam plans to broaden cooperation with foreign companies in the evaluation of the oil deposits and opening new oilfields. In particular, it plans to pump 4.8 million tonnes of crude oil this year from Bach Ho oilfield. Petro Vietnam is also choosing its partners for the development of projects on gas, lubricants and refinery.

Feature Looks at Economic Developments of 1991

BK0702051492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In 1991 Vietnam was one of the themes which captured much publicity. Would Vietnam continue to exist or would it collapse? This question has been answered now that 1992 has come.

In fact, when 1991 came to an end the U.S. press already provided an answer to this question. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL on 18 January carried an article comparing the renovation process of Vietnam with that of some other countries. The paper said that by the end of last year Vietnam had progressed by leaps and bounds even though it no longer received Soviet aid. At first, when the situation in the former Soviet Union changed so quickly, it was thought that Vietnam would face with difficulties and unprecedented consequences. But, Vietnam stood firm and continued to develop. This affirmed the correctness of the course of doi moi, or renovation, which is being carried out in Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the U.S. newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES said that from being a country that was always in short supply of food, Vietnam has become one of the world's rice exporters. Last year Vietnam exported 1 million tons of rice as well as 1 million tons of coal. Though these figures are not big, they are significant amid the changing political landscape of 1991.

Many foreigners to Vietnam have shared the view that Vietnam is carrying out its renovation process effectively. Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Chandra Sharma told a radio correspondent in a recent interview that Vietnam's renovation policies have been successful in the fields of economy and diplomacy. He noted that relations between Vietnam and countries of Asia and the world have improved, facilitating national development. Meanwhile, Mr Parameswaran, Malaysian ambassador to Vietnam, said that during his one-year stay in Vietnam he saw with his own eyes vast changes in the country. Houses, shops, markets and bridges have been built; the market is overflowing with commodities; people are well dressed.

Last year more than 10,000 foreign businessmen visited Vietnam compared with 6,000 in 1990. Also last year Vietnam granted licences to foreign investment projects totaling $1.2 billion, double the 1990 figure. The REUTER correspondent remarked that Vietnam is a good place for investment. A representative of the Japanese company Nisho Iwai said that doing business in Vietnam last year was easier than previously. Vietnam offices and companies have been granted autonomy in negotiations and decisionmaking, so they have fared better.

While other countries have stepped up their trade relations with Vietnam, the U.S. is still being cautious and has maintained its economic embargo against Vietnam. The U.S. mass media and American people have called on the Bush administration to renounce this erroneous policy. Mr Williams, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said that it is interesting that the areas the U.S. is interested in, such as infrastructure, banking, oil and gas, tourism, and transport are also given priority in Vietnam. However, the U.S. is a latecomer due to the trade embargo against Vietnam. It is hoped that the U.S. will adopt a new policy toward Vietnam.

In 1992 all foreigners, including Americans, will be welcomed by Vietnam. Our party general secretary, Do Muoi, has said: Vietnam has been creating the best conditions possible for foreigners to come and do business with Vietnam.

Construction of Export Processing Zone Begun

BK0702090792 Hanoi VNA in English 0652 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 7—The construction of an export processing zone on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City officially began yesterday. This is the Tan Thuan Corporation, a joint venture between the Tan Thuan export-oriented industrial programme (under the municipal people's committee). The Pan Viet Corporation, and the Central Training and [word indistinct] Corporation of Taiwan. The Tan Thuan Corporation, with a total investment of USd 89 million, is expected to provide more than 300,000 jobs when completed.

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